

ARUBA VOTES: ELECTION DAY HAS ARRIVED!



ORANJESTAD – Parliamentary Elections will be held today, Friday, September 27, 2013, on the Dutch Caribbean island of Aruba. These elections are set to occur every four years.

Most pre-election polls have given an edge to the leading AVP Aruban People's Party, who four years ago won the election with 19,804 votes.

Six political parties are competing for 21 seats in Parliament. PPA, AVP, PDR, UPP, MEP and RED.

In Oranjestad, the capital of Aruba, drivers have been cruising the narrow streets with the yellow, red and green flags of the three main parties hanging outside their windows. Voters were chatting amicably under the tropical sun. The atmosphere in the last few days was festive and no disruptions were immediately reported.

Different island stores, merchants, businesses and banking institutions will have various changes to their business hours and operations for Election Day, most of which will be back to regular business hours and operations again by Saturday.

There are 68,750 eligible voters on island.

Election results are expected Saturday. □

BROKERING MOMENTUM



Syrian President Bashar Assad speaks during an interview with Venezuela's state-run Telesur network, in Damascus, Syria. Assad said in an interview broadcast this week that he does not discount the possibility of a U.S. military attack even though threatened action was forestalled when he agreed to give up chemical weapons.

(AP Photo/SANA)

Deal reached to eliminate Syria's chemical weapons

**EDITH M. LEDERER
MATTHEW LEE
Associated Press**

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The five permanent members of the deeply divided U.N. Security Council reached agreement Thursday on a resolution to eliminate Syria's chemical weapons arsenal, British and U.S. diplomats said, and the full council was set to discuss it Thursday night.

The agreement represents a major breakthrough in addressing the 2 1/2-year conflict, which has killed more than 100,000 people. Divisions among the permanent members have paralyzed council action on Syria since the conflict began. U.N. diplomats said

this resolution would be the first legally binding one on Syria in the conflict if adopted, which now appears virtually certain.

Britain's U.N. ambassador, Mark Lyall Grant, tweeted that Britain, France, the U.S., Russia and China had agreed on a "binding and enforceable draft ... resolution."

He said Britain would introduce the text to the 10 other council members Thursday night.

The U.S. and Russia had been at odds on how to enforce the resolution, but Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and U.S. Ambassador Samantha Power confirmed that the last hurdles to agreement had

been overcome.

On Twitter, Power said the draft resolution establishes that Syria's chemical weapons "is threat to international peace & security & creates a new norm against the use of CW."

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Lavrov met in hastily scheduled, closed-door talks Thursday afternoon at the United Nations, and the agreement was announced soon afterward. The agreement came a day after Russia's deputy foreign minister said negotiators had overcome a major hurdle and agreed that the resolution would include a reference to Chapter 7 of the U.N. Charter, which allows for military

and nonmilitary actions to promote peace and security.

The U.S. and Russia had been at odds on how to enforce the resolution to secure and dismantle Syria's chemical weapons.

In Moscow, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov offered to provide troops to guard facilities where Syria's chemical weapons would be destroyed.

The flurry of diplomatic activity is in response to an Aug. 21 poison gas attack that killed hundreds of civilians in a Damascus suburb, and President Barack Obama's threat of U.S. strikes in retaliation.

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Diplomats hail new Iranian attitude in nuke talks

Diplomats hail Iranian attitude in nuke talks

LARA
MATTHEW LEE

JAKES

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

The United States and the other permanent members of the U.N. Security Council said Thursday they were pleased by a new tone and attitude from Iran in talks aimed at resolving the impasse over its nuclear program and set a new round of negotiations for next month. After a group meeting and then a one-on-one session between Secretary of State John Kerry and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, Kerry called the talks “constructive” and said he was struck by a “very different tone” from Iran. But he stressed that words must be translated into action if Iran wants to prove it is not seeking to develop a nuclear weapon. “We’ve agreed to try to continue a process that would try to make concrete and find a way to answer the questions that people have about Iran’s

table, was the highest-level direct contact between the United States and Iran in six years. EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton suggested that the two men had shaken hands and been cordial with each other.

Speaking after Kerry, Zarif said the meetings had been “very constructive” and “very businesslike.”

“We hope to be able to make progress to solve this issue in a timely fashion (and) to make sure (there is) no concern that Iran’s program is anything but peaceful,” he said.

“I am satisfied with this first step,” Zarif said. “Now we have to see whether we can match our positive words with serious deeds so we can move forward.” He said the end result would have to include “a total lifting” of the international sanctions that have devastated Iran’s economy. Ashton called the meeting “substantial” and announced that the parties had agreed to “go

meeting had taken place in a “completely different tone, atmosphere and spirit” that what the group was used to and that a “window of opportunity has opened” for a peaceful resolution of the situation. He warned, though, that Iran’s words would have to be matched by actions.

“Words are not enough,” he said. “Actions and tangible results are what counts. The devil is in the detail, so it is now important that we have substantial and serious negotiations very soon.”

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and Zarif, both in New York this week to attend the U.N. General Assembly, have said they are anxious to clinch an agreement quickly that could bring their country relief from punishing international sanctions.

But the U.S. insists Rouhani must back up his calls for moderation with actions that verify Iran is not seeking to develop a nuclear weapon.



Seated at the table from left, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, left, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and European Union foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton attend a meeting of the five permanent members of the Security Council plus Germany during the 68th session of the United Nations General Assembly at U.N. headquarters, Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2013. (AP Photo/Jason DeCrow)

nuclear program,” Kerry told reporters. “Needless to say, one meeting and a change in tone, that was welcome, does not answer those questions.”

“All of us were pleased that the foreign minister came today and that he did put some possibilities on the table.”

The meeting between Zarif and Kerry, who sat next to each other at a U-shaped

forward with an ambitious timeframe.” The next step will be a meeting of senior negotiators in Geneva on Oct 15-16, she said.

British Foreign Secretary William Hague said there had been a “big improvement in the tone and spirit” from Iran compared with representatives of the previous Iranian government. German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle said the

Encouraged by signs that Rouhani will adopt a more moderate stance than his predecessor Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, but skeptical that the country’s all-powerful supreme leader will allow a change in course, President Barack Obama has directed Kerry to lead a new outreach and explore possibilities for resolving the long-standing dispute. □



Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper takes part in a discussion with the Canadian American Business Council in New York, Thursday Sept. 26, 2013. Harper said he “won’t take no for an answer” if the Obama administration rejects the controversial Keystone XL pipeline to the U.S. Gulf Coast. (AP Photo/Adrian Wylid)

Canada PM says won’t accept a US rejection of Keystone XL

ROB GILLIES

Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Canada’s prime minister said Thursday he “won’t take no for an answer” if the Obama administration rejects the controversial Keystone XL pipeline to the U.S. Gulf Coast.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper addressed the Keystone XL project, a flash-point in the debate over climate change, during a visit to New York City. The long-delayed project carrying oil from Canada’s oil sands needs approval from the U.S. State Department, and Harper’s remarks are some of his strongest to date.

“My view is that you don’t take no for an answer,” Harper said. “We haven’t had that but if we were to get that it won’t be final. This won’t be final until it’s approved and we will keep pushing forward.”

Harper, who made the remarks at a Canadian American Business Council event, said he’s been in regular contact with President Barack Obama. Harper said it will create 40,000 jobs in the U.S.

“The logic behind this project is simply overwhelming,” the prime minister said.

Harper said politics has cast doubt on whether the pipeline will be approved but said he’s optimistic it will be approved.

“Ultimately, over time, bad politics make bad policy,” he said. “The president has always assured me that he will make a decision that’s in what he believes is in the best interests of the United States based on the facts. I think the facts are clear.” The Obama administration is considering whether to approve the pipeline, which would carry 800,000 barrels of oil a day from Alberta across six U.S. states to the Texas Gulf Coast. A decision late this year or early next year.

Republicans, and business and labor groups, have urged the Obama administration to approve the pipeline as a source of much-needed jobs and a step toward North American energy independence. Environmental groups have been pressuring President Barack Obama to reject the pipeline, saying it would carry “dirty oil” that contributes to global warming. They also worry about a spill.

Obama’s initial rejection of the pipeline last year went over badly in Canada, which relies on the U.S. for 97 percent of its energy exports. The pipeline is critical to Canada, which needs infrastructure in place to export its growing oil sands production. The northern Alberta region has the world’s third largest oil reserves, with 170 billion barrels of proven reserves. □

Giant duck floating to Pittsburgh

KEVIN BEGOS
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The first U.S. version of the gigantic rubber duckie that's made a splash in harbors from Hong Kong to Sao Paulo since 2007 will appear in Pittsburgh on Friday.

Each city builds its own duck from the plans of Dutch artist Florentijn Hofman, and the whole project includes massive pontoons, crews to inflate and deflate the duck, and in this case, alerting organizations such as the Coast Guard and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Hofman has said the 40-foot (12-meter) duck has "healing properties" because it knows no frontiers, doesn't discriminate and doesn't have a political connotation.

Mariners were alerted to the duck's impending presence, Coast Guard Lt. JG Devin Adams said, because the shipping channel of the Ohio River is one of the nation's busiest commercial waterways, including huge barges carrying coal and other materials.

"Our job at that point is to alert the maritime community ... that there's going to be a duck there," Adams said, stifling a chuckle.

The duck's arrival Friday will kick off the monthlong Pittsburgh International Festival of Firsts, which features theater, dance, music and visual arts from around the world. The duck will be moored downtown until late October. The project began when Paul Organisk of the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust saw pictures of other duck events and sought Hofman's approval for the first U.S. duckie. But even after agreement was reached, Organisk was in for some surprises about its creation. "I just thought you blow up the duck and put it in the water," he said, but in fact there's been a secret months-long construction process, including 14,000-pound (6,350-kilogram) pontoons. □

Government shutdown looms as compromise falters

WASHINGTON (AP) — The likelihood of a U.S. government shutdown appeared to increase as House Republicans insisted they won't approve a spending bill unless it strips funding from President Barack Obama's signature health care overhaul.

The defiant posture sets the stage for weekend drama

their conservative tea party wing, want to use the temporary spending bill to strip funding from President Barack Obama's signature health care program. But if they insist on the point over Democratic objections, there would be little hope of getting the bill through Congress and a shutdown would be almost inevitable.

sure, even though that's been the norm in Congress on dozens of occasions since the 1995-96 government closures that bruised Republicans and strengthened the hand of Democratic President Bill Clinton. "I don't see that happening," Boehner said. Still, he declared that "I have no interest in a government

pass a bill that guts the Affordable Care Act," Reid declared. A partial government shutdown would keep hundreds of thousands of federal workers off the job, close national parks and generate damaging headlines for which ever side the public held responsible.

Washington faces two deadlines: The Oct. 1 start of the new budget year and a mid-October date — now estimated for the 17th — when the government can no longer borrow money to pay its bills on time and in full.

The first deadline requires Congress to pass a spending bill to allow agencies to stay open. The mid-month deadline requires Congress to increase the government's \$16.7 trillion borrowing cap to avoid a first-ever default on its payments, which include interest obligations, pension benefits, payments to thousands of contractors large and small, and salaries for the military. The standoff just four days before the end of the fiscal year increased the possibility of a shutdown, with no signs of compromise. The No. 2 Democrat in the Senate, Dick Durbin of Illinois, said that because of the time it takes the Senate to approve even non-controversial bills, if the House amends a Senate-passed spending bill and returns it to the Senate over the weekend, "That is a concession on their part that we're going to shut down the government." □



With four days to go before the federal government is due to run out of money, Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., center, points to a countdown clock during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Sept. 26, 2013, as Senate Democratic leaders blame conservative Republicans for holding up a stopgap spending bill to keep the government running. From left are, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nev., Schumer, Senate Majority Whip Richard Durbin of Ill., and Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Sen. Barbara Mikulski, D-Md.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

after the Senate on Friday sends the fractious House a straightforward bill to keep the government operating through Nov. 15 rather than partly closing down at midnight Monday. Republicans, prodded by

That would be politically risky ahead of next year's congressional elections. Speaker John Boehner and several rank-and-file Republicans said the House simply won't accept a "clean" spending mea-

shutdown" and he doesn't expect one to occur on Tuesday.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada said the Democratic-led chamber will not relent.

"The Senate will never

Deal reached to eliminate Syria's chemical weapons

Continued from Front

After Kerry said Syrian President Bashar Assad could avert U.S. military action by turning over "every single bit of his chemical weapons" to international control within a week, Russia, Syria's most important ally, agreed. Kerry and Lavrov signed an agreement in Geneva on Sept. 13.

Assad's government quickly accepted the broad proposal, but there have

been tough negotiations on how its stockpile will be destroyed.

Security Council action on Syria had long been stalled because of differences between Russia and China, who back Assad's government, and the U.S., Britain and France, who support the opposition.

Russia and China have vetoed three Western-backed resolutions aimed at pressuring Assad to end the violence.

Work on the new resolution

continues while the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the body that will be in charge of securing and destroying the stockpile, is working on its own document to set out its exact duties.

The U.N. resolution will include the text of the OPCW's declaration and make it officially legally binding — so the OPCW must act first.

The Hague-based OPCW said Thursday it was optimistic it could quickly

schedule a meeting of its 41-nation executive council to approve a roadmap for swiftly destroying Syria's chemical arsenal and production facilities.

A U.N. diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity because consultations have been private, said the executive board of the OPCW isn't likely to meet before Sunday, which means that Security Council adoption of the resolution likely won't take place until next week. □

NSA official sidesteps queries on cellphone locations

KIMBERLY DOZIER

AP Intelligence Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's top intelligence official on Thursday side-

has ever used Americans cellphone signals to collect information on their whereabouts that would allow tracking of the movements

collected or made plans to collect such data, NSA chief Gen. Keith Alexander answered both times by reading from a letter

cited a classified version of the letter that was sent to senators and said, "What I don't want to do ... is put out in an unclassified forum anything that's classified." Wyden promised to keep asking.

"I believe this is something the American people have a right to know, whether NSA has ever collected or made plans to collect cell site information," Wyden said. The testy exchange at a Senate Intelligence Committee hearing illustrates the wider tension that has grown between the public and the U.S. intelligence community, following disclosures by Edward Snowden, a 29-year-old former systems analyst on contract to the NSA, about the extensive NSA collection of telephone and email records of millions of Americans.

The panel's bipartisan leadership used the hearing to promote their version of legislation to

change the Federal Intelligence Surveillance Act. The lawmakers seek to trim NSA's authority to access and analyze U.S. phone records and provide new protections to Americans' privacy. They also want to broaden the government's spying powers to allow monitoring of terror suspects who travel to the U.S. after being tracked overseas by the NSA.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, chairwoman of the committee, said the legislation would "strictly limit access to the ... phone metadata records, expressly prohibit the collection of the content of phone calls," and limit the amount of time such U.S. phone call data could be kept.

Such records show the date and length of calls, and the numbers dialed.

But Feinstein's proposed legislation would not stop the bulk collection of telephone and email records. □



Senate Intelligence Committee Chair Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., second from left, talks with from left, Deputy Attorney General James Cole, National Security Agency Director General Keith Alexander, and Director of National Intelligence James Clapper, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Sept. 26, 2013, before the start of the committee's hearing on the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), and National Security Agency (NSA) call records.

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

stepped questions from a senator about whether the National Security Agency

of individual callers.

Asked twice by Sen. Ron Wyden if the NSA had ever

provided to senators who had asked the same question last summer. He also

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CASINO AND SHOPS

Jury gets negligence case over death of Jackson

LINDA DEUTSCH
AP Special Correspondent
LOS ANGELES (AP) — After a bitterly fought five-month trial, a negligence lawsuit by Michael Jackson's

the company he portrayed as a heartless, money-making machine.

Attorney Brian Panish, who represents Katherine Jackson, urged the six women

the physician whose treatments killed the superstar. Earlier this week, a lawyer for AEG Live suggested the promoter was pressured by Jackson to hire Murray

the anesthetic propofol in his bedroom. The drug is intended for use during operations at hospitals.

Murray was convicted in 2011 of involuntary manslaughter after giving Jackson an overdose of propofol as a sleep aid as Jackson fought chronic insomnia. Murray is in prison.

Jurors were led out of the courtroom by 10 armed sheriff's deputies assigned to guard them during deliberations.

Panish used his rebuttal argument earlier Thursday to urge the jury to find that AEG hired Murray without considering whether he was fit for the job. AEG lawyers say it was Jackson who hired the doctor.

In his speech to jurors, Panish suggested they might decide there was shared negligence in hiring Murray.

"Think of a bicycle built for two," he said. "Both can cause the harm."

He did not blame Jackson for seeking propofol and instead cited AEG for hiring the doctor who gave it to him.

"Propofol might not be the best idea," Panish said. "But if you have a competent doctor, you're not going to die."

Panish claimed that AEG executives such as CEO Randy Phillips and co-CEO Paul Gongaware disdained Jackson and reminded jurors of an email in which an AEG attorney referred. □



AEG Live lead attorney Marvin Putnam delivers his closing arguments in the Michael Jackson wrongful death trial in Los Angeles. After a bitterly fought five-month trial, a negligence lawsuit by Jackson's mother against his concert promoter was placed in the hands of a jury Thursday.

(AP Photo/Irfan Khan)

mother against his concert promoter was placed in the hands of a jury Thursday after a final plea by a Jackson lawyer to punish

and six men on the jury to find that defendant AEG Live LLC and Jackson shared responsibility for hiring Dr. Conrad Murray,

as his personal physician, and was deceived when Jackson and Murray hid the fact that the singer was receiving nightly doses of

Accountant arrested over Madoff fraud

LARRY NEUMEISTER
Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP) — A 77-year-old accounting executive was arrested Thursday on charges he helped direct false bookkeeping during Bernard Madoff's historic fraud, though his lawyer said his client was himself "a victim of a sociopath."

The executive, Paul Konigsberg, was charged with five crimes in an indictment unsealed in federal court in Manhattan. Prosecutors said Konigsberg was a senior tax partner at the accounting firm Konigsberg Wolf & Co. when he directed others to falsify records to conceal a fraud that cheated thousands of investors out of nearly \$20 billion over decades.

Konigsberg pleaded not guilty at an arraignment. His lawyer, Reed Brodsky, insisted he was a victim Madoff,

the one-time high-flying financier who pleaded guilty to fraud charges in 2009 and was sentenced to 150 years in prison. The lawyer noted that the Securities and Exchange Commission as well as thousands of investors were duped for decades by Madoff.

"Mr. Konigsberg was no different," Brodsky said. "He and his family lost over \$10 million." Konigsberg was freed on \$2 million bail pending a court appearance Monday. Outside court, Brodsky said Konigsberg was looking forward to clearing his name in court. "He is a victim of a sociopath, Bernie Madoff," Brodsky said. Konigsberg declined outside court to comment.

At the arraignment, Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew Schwartz said Konigsberg was Madoff's "accountant of choice" with his most

important clients. He said Konigsberg backdated trades by months or years to further the fraud and was paid \$15,000 to \$20,000 a month.

"These are serious charges," Schwartz said, arguing that Konigsberg was a flight risk because he had substantial assets.

Konigsberg, also a lawyer, is the only person outside the Madoff family to have held an ownership interest in Madoff's private investment business, the indictment said.

Brodsky said his client considers himself retired now, except for some consulting work.

The indictment said Madoff steered some of his most important customers "in whose accounts Madoff executed the most glaringly fraudulent transactions" to use Konigsberg as their accountant. □

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Attorney General meets with JPMorgan chief

PETE YOST

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — JPMorgan chief executive Jamie Dimon met Thursday with Attorney General Eric Holder about an investigation into the company's handling of mortgage-backed securities in the run-up to the recession. Holder declined to characterize the hourlong discussions, but a government official familiar with ongoing negotiations said an \$11 billion national settlement is under review to resolve

been carrying out for several years involving some of the nation's largest financial institutions, including JPMorgan. Before and after the meeting with Holder, Dimon declined to answer when asked about the state of the discussions. Other participants in the discussion were Steve Cutler, JPMorgan's general counsel, and Rodgin Cohen, a partner in the Sullivan & Cromwell law firm. For the Justice Department, Deputy Attorney

cuss it publicly. The mortgage-backed securities lost value after a bubble in the housing market burst and helped spur the financial crisis. In January 2012, a task force of federal and state law enforcement officials was established to pursue wrongdoing with regard to mortgage securities. In other cases, the Justice Department last month accused Bank of America Corp. of civil fraud in failing to disclose risks and misleading investors in its



JPMorgan Chase Chairman, President and CEO Jamie Dimon, leaves the Justice Department in Washington, Thursday, Sept. 26, 2013. An \$11 billion national settlement is under discussion to resolve claims over JPMorgan's handling of mortgage-backed securities in the run-up to the recession, said a government official familiar with ongoing negotiations among bank, federal and New York state officials. (AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

claims against JPMorgan. "I did meet with representatives of JPMorgan," the attorney general said during a news conference being held on another topic. "We have matters that are under investigation. I expect to be making further announcements in the coming weeks, the coming months," Holder said. His comment was a general reference to probes the Justice Department has

General James Cole and Associate Attorney General Tony West also participated. The Department of Justice is taking the lead on the proposed \$11 billion deal, which would include \$7 billion in cash and \$4 billion in consumer relief, said the government official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because a settlement hasn't been reached and the official wasn't authorized to dis-

sale of \$850 million in mortgage bonds in 2008. The Securities and Exchange Commission filed a related lawsuit. The government estimates that investors lost more than \$100 million on the deal. Bank of America is disputing the allegations. Last week, JPMorgan agreed to pay \$920 million and admitted that it failed to oversee trading that led to a \$6 billion loss last year. □

ICBM test-launched from California

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, California (AP) —

The U.S. Air Force has test-launched an unarmed Minuteman 3 intercontinental ballistic missile from California. The missile lifted off from Vandenberg Air Force Base at 3:33 a.m. PDT (1033 GMT) Thursday. It was the second Minute-

man launch from Vandenberg this week. The first was launched early Sunday. The Air Force Global Strike Command said the test was a success. No other details were released because it was a classified mission. Such tests typically involve a flight over the Pacific Ocean to a target in the

Kwajalein Atoll. Col. Scott Fox, vice commander of the 20th Air Force, said in a statement that the test was a visible demonstration of the nation's nuclear deterrent. Private rocket maker SpaceX will attempt to launch a Canadian satellite from Vandenberg on Sunday. □

Q&A ON THE NEWS

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Q: What happens to the charitable initiatives of first ladies after they leave office? Michelle Obama's focus is military families and Let's Move!, which is tackling childhood obesity. What were the initiatives of Hillary Clinton, and Barbara and Laura Bush? What is the status of their projects?
-- **Beryle I. Baker, Decatur, Ga.**

A: Barbara Bush is still involved with the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy, which she founded while she was first lady from 1989-93. "The Barbara Bush Foundation is a public charity which supports families and local communities nationwide, each year awarding millions of dollars to successful family literacy programs," according to the foundation's website. Several schools and at least one library have been named for her. Clinton (1993-2001) was more politically active than most first ladies and was a key figure in the passage of the Foster Care Independence Act in 1999. She also headed the task force on national health care reform and was the founding chair of the Save America's Treasures committee, which "invests in the preservation of America's threatened cultural and historic treasures." Laura Bush (2001-09) championed education and women's health through organizations like the National Book Festival in Washington, the National Anthem Project, The Heart Truth and the Women's Health and Wellness Initiative, and Susan G. Komen for the Cure. Laura Bush was ambassador for The Heart Truth, which helps raise awareness of the risks of heart disease in women, for six years. The National Anthem Project was a short-term effort to teach Americans the words to "The Star-Spangled Banner" and stress music education. It lasted from 2005-07.

Q: How high in the sky can those lights at the 9/11 Memorial be seen? More than 100,000 feet? Higher?
-- **Patrick Kelly, Covington, Ga.**

A: It's unknown how high the twin beams that make up the Tribute in Light can be seen, a National September 11 Memorial & Museum spokesman told Q-and-A on the News in an email, but it's been reported that they are visible from as far as 60 miles away. Each beam is made up of 44 custom-designed, high-intensity searchlights that are arranged in two 48-foot squares near the World Trade Center site, according to 911memorial.org, the official website. The lights are turned on at sunset on Sept. 11 and turned off at dawn on Sept. 12 every year to mark the anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001.

Q: I recently read a story about Apple's iPhone in China and saw a currency I wasn't familiar with called the renminbi. Can you tell me more about it?
-- **Richard Clarke, Atlanta**

A: Renminbi, which means "the people's currency," is the official name of China's currency. It was introduced to communist China in 1949 and is often referred to as the yuan, which actually is a denomination in the renminbi system, according to a BBC News article. A comparable example is the British pound being a unit of the pound sterling, the name of British currency. Yuan means dollar in Chinese, but the word "kuai," which is slang for yuan, like "buck" is for dollar in the U.S., often is used, the article states.

Q: Cable news networks have reported that many churches were looted and burned in Egypt during recent violence. What is the Christian population in Egypt?
-- **William McKee Jr., Flowery Branch, Ga.**

A: The percentage of Christians in Egypt is listed from 5 percent to 10 percent, depending on the source. The Pew Research Center has noted that Christians could be undercounted in Egypt because they might be hesitant to report their religious beliefs for fear of reprisal. □

US Financial Front:

Toyota exec says pent-up demand for new cars will end



James Lentz, president and chief operating officer of Toyota in North America, speaks during an interview on Thursday, Sept. 26, 2013 in New York.

(AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews)

TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The boom in sales of new cars in the U.S. has been fueled by consumers replacing vehicles they kept through the recession.

But a top auto industry executive says that the pent-up demand likely will be satisfied by late next year. Jim Lentz, Toyota's North American CEO, told The Associated Press in an interview Thursday that demand for new cars from owners of older models could dry up sometime late in 2014. If the economy isn't creating jobs at a faster pace when that happens, the boom could screech to a halt.

"The market then has to work off a much better economy, an improving economy," Lentz said. "If we don't have that, I think the market may flatten out."

New car and truck sales hit a three-decade low of 10.4 million in 2009 as the financial crisis dried up

money for car loans and U.S.-based auto companies nearly went out of business. Consumers, many who feared they could lose their jobs, refused to buy new cars and instead kept their old ones on the road.

Sales, though, gradually rebounded and now are running at an annual rate of around 15.6 million, just below pre-recession levels. Lentz, speaking at the AP's New York headquarters, said the average car and truck in the U.S. is now more than 11 years old. At the same time, the supply of coveted used cars that are one-to-five years old is down to levels not seen since the 1980s. Used car prices have jumped, making their monthly payments as high as those for new cars, Lentz said. That's brought more buyers into new-car showrooms, he said.

But as people replace their cars at a faster rate, the used-car supply increases.



US pending home sales fall for 3rd straight month

C. S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fewer Americans signed contracts to buy U.S. homes in August, the third straight decline. The drop could mean that higher mortgage rates are starting to deter some buyers.

The National Association of Realtors said Thursday that its seasonally adjusted index for pending home sales declined 1.6 percent to 107.7 last month. The index has fallen for three straight months after reaching a 6 1/2-year high in May.

The pending home sales index measures signed contracts. Buyers typically complete sales one to two months later.

The housing market has been in recovery for the last year and a half and fi-

nal home sales reached a six-year high in August, the Realtors' group said last week. But mortgage rates have risen nearly a full percentage point since May. That helped the market in the short run, as many buyers moved to speed up purchases before rates climbed further.

The rise in closings on homes in August reflected contracts signed in June and July. Based on the decline in signed contracts, completed sales are likely to cool off in September or October.

Another obstacle for the market is a tight supply of available homes for sale. While the supply ticked up in August to 2.25 million, it remains 6 percent lower than a year ago. That is pushing up prices and

freezing out some would-be buyers.

Signed contracts are still nearly 6 percent higher than a year earlier. □

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Court upholds 50 years for Liberia's Charles Taylor

MIKE CORDER
Associated Press

LEIDSCHENDAM, Netherlands (AP) — More than a decade after fuelling a murderous campaign of terror in Sierra Leone by

Leone upheld the 65-year-old former Liberian president's conviction on 11 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity, including terrorism, murder, rape and using child sol-

of accountability for heads of state.

"This is a historic and momentous day for the people of Sierra Leone and the region," U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said

ning war crimes and crimes against humanity."

Stephen Rapp, the ambassador for war crimes issues at the U.S. Department of State and former prosecutor at the Sierra Leone court, said the ruling "sends a clear message to all the world, that when you commit crimes like this, it may not happen overnight, but there will be a day of reckoning."

However, it also appeared to establish dueling sets of jurisprudence at two international courts on opposite sides of The Hague on the question of when senior officials can support one side in another country's civil war — an issue world leaders must consider if they mull over arming rebels in Syria.

The Sierra Leone appeals panel rejected a controversial February ruling by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), which said that to prove a leader has aided and abetted a crime,

the assistance has to be specifically directed at

committing a crime. In that case, the former chief of staff of the Yugoslav national army was acquitted of aiding and abetting atrocities by Bosnian Serb forces even though he had sent them arms and other supplies.

Taylor's case appeared to swing the pendulum back toward a lower burden of proof for prosecutors.

His lawyer complained that the two rulings have created "entirely chaotic jurisprudence" at international tribunals.

If Taylor had been prosecuted by the Yugoslav tribunal,

"I dare say the outcome would have been different, and that courthouse is less than 10 kilometers (six miles) away from this courthouse," Morris Anyah said.

But international law expert Michael Scharf of Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, said the ruling Thursday "righted the ship" after the Yugoslav court had made prosecuting leaders who support rebels much more difficult. □



Former Liberian President Charles Taylor, left, waits for the start of his appeal judgment at the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) in Leidschendam, near The Hague, Netherlands, Thursday Sept. 26, 2013.

(AP Photo/Koen van Weel)

supplying rebels with arms, Charles Taylor was definitively convicted and imprisoned Thursday for 50 years, in a ruling that finally delivered justice for victims. The appeals chamber of the Special Court for Sierra

diers.

Taylor is the first former head of state convicted by an international war crimes court since World War II and Thursday's confirmation was welcomed as underscoring a new era

in a statement.

"The judgment is a significant milestone in international criminal justice, as it confirms the conviction of a former head of state for aiding, abetting and plan-

Greenpeace activists jailed amid Russian probe

A. ROSLYAKOV
N. VASILYEVA

Associated Press

MURMANSK, Russia (AP) —

A Russian court on Thursday jailed the U.S. captain of a Greenpeace ship along with a Russian photographer and more than a dozen activists who were part of a group protesting near an oil platform in the Arctic last week.

The Russian Coast Guard disrupted an attempt by the activists on Sept. 18 to scale the Russian Arctic platform. Russian authorities seized Greenpeace's ship, the Arctic Sunrise, the next day and towed it with the 30 people aboard to Murmansk.

No charges have been brought against anyone in the group, and several activists' cases are still being considered by the court. Judges have been deciding whether to jail each of those who were on board the ship pending the inves-

tigation. Russian authorities are looking into whether they could be charged with piracy, among other offenses.

The court on Thursday denied bail and sanctioned a two-month jail term for Russian photographer Denis Sinyakov and Greenpeace spokesman Roman Dolgov, also from Russia.

It handed out similar terms to the ship captain, Pete Willcox of the United States; Canadian crew member Paul Douglas Ruzycki; boat mechanic Jonathan Beauchamp of New Zealand; Francesco Pisanu of France; Gizhem Akhan of Turkey and Marco Weber from Switzerland, among others.

Several other activists were jailed only for three days pending the probe.

Russia's Investigative Committee spokesman Vladimir Markin said some of those jailed could be released before two months are up

as investigators clarify what roles they played in the protest.

Although Russian President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday the activists aren't pirates, he defended their detention.

The detained activists are from 18 countries, including Russia, and a long detention or trials could draw unwelcome international attention to Russia's tough policy against protests.

Greenpeace's executive director, Kumi Naidoo, said in an emailed statement that "the Russian authorities are trying to scare people who stand up to the oil industry in the Arctic, but this blatant intimidation will not succeed."

Reporters Without Borders said it was appalled by the jailing of the Russian photographer, Sinyakov, saying his arrest was "an unacceptable violation of freedom of information." □



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Sudanese army deploys after deadly Khartoum riots

MOHAMMED SAEED

Associated Press

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) —

Sudanese authorities on Thursday deployed troops around vital installations and gas stations in the country's capital following days of rioting over gas price hikes that killed at least 30 people.

The army also reinforced positions around military headquarters in Khartoum and along the city's university road, which is close to the presidential palace.

The mood in the capital was tense and schools were closed as residents prepared for more potential violence and protests expected on Friday, particularly after worshippers flood out of mosques following weekly Islamic prayer.

Violent protests erupted in Sudan on Monday when President Omar al-Bashir's government decided to lift subsidies, nearly doubling prices on fuel products.

A gallon (3.8 liters) of diesel sprang from eight Sudanese pounds (\$1.81) to 14 pounds (\$3.18) after subsidies were lifted this week. A gallon of gasoline that was 12 pounds rose to 21, while a canister of cooking gas that was 14 pounds is now 25. One U.S. dollar is about 4.40 Sudanese pounds.

Hospital officials and activists said at least 30 have been killed since in street violence, mostly in Khartoum. They spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to talk to the media.

Protesters torched 20 gas stations in Khartoum and elsewhere, and set fire to several police stations. Stores were looted in several parts of the city. Police fired tear gas in some places.

The Change Now youth movement said security forces killed the demonstrators by firing randomly into crowds, including at two funerals of slain protesters in Khartoum Wednesday night.

"The government deployed large security forces to suppress the protests," spokesman Amgad Farid said by telephone. "Whatever the scale of the crackdown, people will not stop," he added.

Farid, also a member of an umbrella group called the Youth Union for Revolution, said protesters' demands had once been purely political and economic but had escalated since the killings.

"The president must step down and the government must resign," he said, referring to al-Bashir, who has ruled over Sudan for more than two decades. "Now, the demands are retribution for the killings and bloodshed."

An activist in Khartoum's flashpoint Omdurman district said it had been emptied of residents, who fled either out of fear or in preparation of Friday's protests. Violence appeared to hit a lull on Thursday with no deaths immediately reported.

The activist said there were no attacks on gas stations where the army was deployed. He said people are hesitant to engage the military but see the police as their adversary. Long lines stretched outside gas stations and people are upset, but they are calling on the army to side with the protesters.

A resident in Khartoum said Internet had been restored by late afternoon in the capital. The U.S.-based Renesys, a company that

monitors the worldwide state of the Internet also said Thursday that the Internet had been restored after almost 24 hours of total blackout.

Last year, an attempt by the government to cut subsidies sparked similar protests but they were quelled by a heavy crackdown

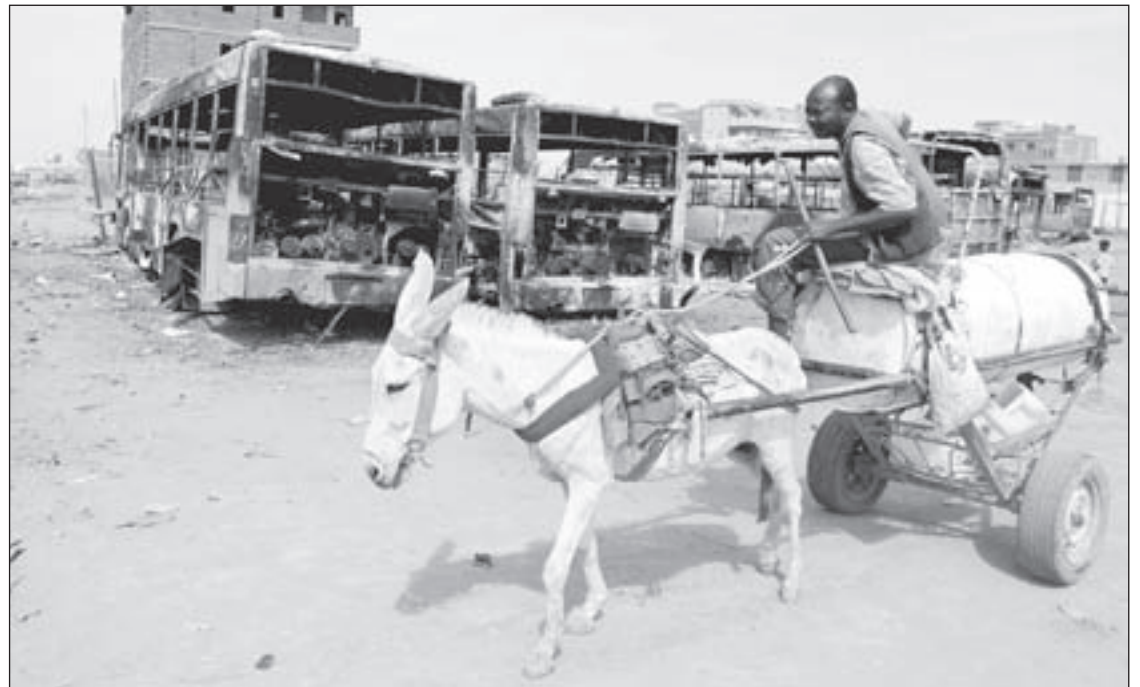
on protesters, activists and journalists.

Sudan lost most of its main oil-producing territory when South Sudan broke off and became an independent state in 2011.

The latest riots first began in the state of Gezira, south of Khartoum, and in some places turned into a call for

the ouster of al-Bashir.

Al-Bashir is wanted by the International Criminal Court on allegations linked to the conflict in Sudan's western region of Darfur where an estimated 300,000 people have died since 2003 due to fighting between government-backed tribes and rebels. □



A man on a donkey cart passes burned buses following rioting and unrest in Khartoum, Sudan, Thursday, Sept. 26, 2013. Sudanese authorities have deployed troops around vital installations and gas stations in Khartoum following days of deadly rioting over gas price hikes.

(AP Photo/Abd Raouf)

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Police: rebel attacks kill 10 in Indian Kashmir

AIJAZ HUSSAIN
Associated Press

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — Suspected separatist rebels stormed into a police station in the Indian portion of Kashmir on Thursday and shot and killed at least six people before attacking a nearby army camp, killing four soldiers, police said. Security forces killed three attackers after nearly six hours of fighting inside the army camp, said Ashok Prasad, a top police officer in Jammu-Kashmir state.

Police officer Rajesh Kumar said only three militants were involved in the attacks, based on eyewitness accounts. Four soldiers died and two others were critically wounded in the second attack, an army officer said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to reporters. The deputy head of the army's cavalry unit was among the dead and the unit's commanding officer was being treated for injuries, the officer said.

camp looking for the assailants. In the first attack, three gunmen dressed in Indian army uniforms sprayed bullets at a police station, killing at least four officers and two civilians, according to several police officers. Another three police officers and one civilian were wounded in the firing, Prasad said. The attackers then hijacked a truck and drove away. Kumar said they like-

man of a previously unknown militant group — Shohada Brigade, or Martyr's Brigade — claimed responsibility for the twin attacks in a phone call to a local English daily, the Kashmir Monitor. "We have full contact with militants and all the three militants are locals," he told the newspaper. India and Pakistan both claim Kashmir in its entirety, and insurgent groups have been fighting Indian rule since 1989. India accuses Pakistan of training and arming Kashmiri militants who carry out attacks in the Indian portion of Kashmir, but Islamabad denies that.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh condemned the attacks and said in a statement that India was "firmly resolved to combat and defeat the terrorist menace that continues to receive encouragement and reinforcement from across the border (in Pakistan)." He said, however, that such attacks would not succeed in derailing India's efforts to resolve its differences with Pakistan through dialogue. Singh and Pakistan's new prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, are scheduled to meet this weekend on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly meeting. The two are expected to discuss steps to improve ties. □



An Indian paramilitary soldier stands guard outside the site of an attack, at a police station in Hiranagar, about 55 kilometers (34 miles) from Jammu, India, Thursday, Sept. 26, 2013. Suspected separatist rebels stormed into the police station in the Indian portion of Kashmir on Thursday and shot and killed several people before attacking a nearby army camp, police said. (AP Photo/Channi Anand)

He said the attackers used guns and grenades. "The firing from the militants has stopped and we are mopping up the area," Prasad said.

ries, the officer said. Television footage showed a helicopter hovering near the army camp as soldiers fired at the attackers. Two tanks moved inside the

ly drove another vehicle to the army camp, about 25 kilometers (15 miles) away. A man identifying himself as Shams-ul-Haque and claiming to be the spokes-

Report identifies new Asia-based hacking group

RAPHAEL SATTER
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The group thought to be behind a 2011 cyberattack on Japan's parliament is also responsible for a string of electronic break-ins at Asian defense companies, security company Kaspersky said in a report Thursday. The Moscow-based antivirus vendor said the hackers, who hit personal computers used by Japanese lawmakers in a widely publicized attack two years ago, also stole commercial blueprints, design material, and budget documents from a string of South Kore-

an and Japanese military contractors in the months that followed. "They are targeting the supply chain for the bigger defense contractors," researcher Costin Raiu said in a telephone interview. He said the speed of the break-ins — the quickest of which ended less than an hour after the hackers began scanning their victims' computers — and the highly selective nature of the files they stole suggested they were guns for hire. "Our opinion is that they do it on contract," Raiu said. "They don't do it in a mass market style, selling information by the gigabyte."

Kaspersky said it was able to get an insight into the hackers by taking over some of their servers and decoding their log files, which basically serve as a running tally of which files are being stolen from whom. Kaspersky named a series of Japanese and South Korean firms as being among the group's targets, but it did not specify whether they actually had data stolen. Kaspersky gave the group the name "Icefog," after a line of code found on one of the group's servers. As for who's behind Icefog, some mystery remains.

Raiu said the attackers used Chinese characters and, in one case, appear to have inadvertently left their names in the code of one of the component pieces of their software. But he said the group appeared to fluent in Korean and Japanese and said forensic data gathered by Kaspersky pointed to a cross-border outfit operating out of China, South Korea, and Japan. If true, it would be an interesting wrinkle given that the three countries are often thought of as commercial rivals. "It's definitely unusual," he said. □

EU seeks new \$68 billion aid fund for banks

JUERGEN BAETZ
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Commission wants to create a new financial backstop for ailing banks from its member countries that do not use the euro currency. The 17 EU countries that use the euro have a 500 billion-euro fund, called the European Stability Mechanism, that they can tap to help rescue troubled banks. But the other 11 members, which include Britain, Poland and Hungary, do not. For those countries, the Commission, the 28-nation EU's executive arm, is proposing to use an existing 50 billion-euro (\$68 billion) fund currently being used as a backstop for countries experiencing a balance-of-payment crisis, Commission spokesman Simon O'Connor said Thursday. The change will require unanimous approval by EU governments, which seems far from certain. Germany and Britain are concerned about the insufficient legal basis for such a fund, and many nations are also reluctant to commit their taxpayers' money to save banks in other countries. Opponents also fear it might ease pressure on countries to clean up their banking sectors without external help. Still, EU officials hope to reach an agreement on the new fund by the end of the year to have it in place for next spring. It's about "providing a credible public backstop at the European level capable of reassuring supervisors and market participants that financial stability will be assured," O'Connor said. O'Connor stressed a decision was needed ahead of the European Central Bank's review of banks' balance sheets early next year. The ECB will carry out the review as it prepares to become the central regulator for the EU's biggest banks in late 2014. The review, complete with a stress test to see how banks would fare in times of trouble, is likely to identify capital shortfalls worth billions of euros, if not dozens of billions, analysts say. □



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Italy government survival in doubt over Berlusconi

NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press

ROME (AP) — The Italian government appeared in peril Thursday after nearly all the senators of Silvio Berlusconi's party vowed to resign if the former premier is ousted from Parliament for his tax fraud conviction. Premier Enrico Letta announced in New York that he would go see the Italian president as soon as he returns to Rome on Friday to discuss how to move forward with what he called the "humiliation" Italy is going through. The Senate is due to vote next week on whether to strip Berlusconi of his seat following his conviction of tax fraud and four-year prison sentence. A 2012 law bans anyone sentenced to more than two years in prison from holding or running for public office for six years. Berlusconi has not only proclaimed his innocence, but has challenged the law's applicability since it was passed after the crimes occurred. Arguing that prosecutors are bent on eliminating him from political life, he has

appealed to both Italy's Constitutional Court and the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France, to intervene. With tensions high, 87 of the 91 senators of Berlusconi's People of Freedom Party turned in letters of resignation Thursday pending the outcome of the Oct. 4 vote, said Renato Schifani, head of Berlusconi's party in the Senate. "It's a persecution that began in 1994 and is being completed now," Schifani told TG4 news, referring to Berlusconi's entry into politics. He argued the Senate vote shouldn't take place until after Italy's Constitutional Court reviews the 2012 law. Berlusconi was convicted over a scheme to purchase the rights to broadcast U.S. movies on his Mediaset empire through a series of offshore companies that involved the false declaration of payments to avoid taxes. His defense argued that he was busy in politics at the time and no longer involved in managing the day-to-day activities of the business. Italy's high court upheld

the conviction on Aug. 1. Berlusconi has flip-flopped on his view of whether Letta's coalition should survive, saying only recently that he wouldn't bring down the government. Five of his allies are Cabinet ministers,

down 1.2 percent while the government's borrowing rates on the bond markets rose, both signs that investors are worried about the impact on the country's financial stability. Though Italy hasn't needed a finan-

Italy's respected President Giorgio Napolitano issued a blistering rebuke of the lawmakers' threat to resign, saying Thursday they were undermining Italy's parliamentary system. He said if carried out, their "worrisome" threat would have the effect of pressuring him into dissolving parliament, a move that would spark a crisis in Letta's 5-month-old, left-right hybrid government.

Napolitano said it was "absurd" for Berlusconi's allies to claim that the media mogul was being overthrown in a "coup" by magistrates. He insisted that definitive court rulings must be respected and applied, saying it's a principle that is as sacrosanct throughout Europe as the independence of the judiciary itself.

"There is still time, and I hope it is used, for People of Freedom lawmakers to find a way to express their political and human support for their party president — if indeed that is their aim — without threatening the work of two branches of parliament," he said. □



A copy of the Italian edition of Vanity Fair magazine, carrying a photo of Silvio Berlusconi, left, and his girlfriend Francesca Pascale, as it is displayed at a newsstand in Rome.

(AP Photo/Alessandra Tarantino)

including his political heir Angelino Alfano, the deputy premier. Investors responded to the political tensions with concern Thursday. Milan's stock index closed

cial bailout like other countries that use the euro, such as Greece and Portugal, it has high debts that have compelled successive governments to instigate wide-ranging economic reforms.

Italy pasta exec comments on gay families in ads spur anger

ROME (AP) — An executive of the Italy-based pasta maker Barilla has apologized for hurting anyone's "sensitivity" after saying the company would never feature ads depicting gay families. Chairman Guido Barilla's comments Wednesday in an Italian radio interview triggered calls to boycott his company's products, which include cookies and bread. Many of the company's ads depict heterosexual parents with children gathered for breakfast or dinner. Barilla says he supports gay marriage but not adoption since it would be "complicated" for same-sex couples to raise children. After calls mounted on Twitter for boycotts, he reiterated his backing for gay marriage in a statement Thursday, but insisted that traditional families have always been "identified" with the Barilla brand. □

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Cuba OKs more private businesses, new regulations

ANNE-MARIE GARCIA

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Real estate agents, auto body workers and home builders can come out of the shadows in Cuba's expanding private economy under rules announced Thursday that allow 18 new categories of independent employment under President Raul Castro's economic reforms.

Among the most notable of the newly allowed private professions are real estate agents, who have long operated on the margin of the law. Even after the communist government legalized the buying and selling of homes in 2011 for the first time in decades, it was still technically against the rules to make money connecting buyers with sellers. The number of approved independent employment activities rises to 199 with the newly legalized professions, which also include rental agents, repair and maintenance service providers, iron workers and welders.

The decision to license the latest crop of professions came about because the country is now better positioned to supply "prime materials, equipment and other inputs to the network of stores," Labor Ministry official Jose Barreiro was quoted as saying by Communist

Party newspaper Granma. In all more than 430,000 private employment licenses have been issued since the reforms began in 2010, and 436,342 independent workers are currently operating, Granma said. Some were already working independently before the reforms began.

Critics have lamented that so far there has not been a push to let many educated professionals such as lawyers, health care workers or scientists work independently of the state.

Published into law Thursday in the government's Official Gazette, the new rules bar the resale of imported goods such as clothing.

Many entrepreneurs who operate under tailors' licenses appear to make more money selling garments brought into the country one overstuffed duffel bag at a time than they generate from actual sewing.

"I'm worried, disgusted and disconcerted," said Reina Margarita Moreira, who sells clothing and household items at a kiosk in central Havana. "We don't agree with this measure. ... We knew a change was coming and we thought they would modify the concept of the license and raise the taxes, but we never thought they would prohibit us from selling clothing

brought in from abroad."

"I have children and grandchildren to support," said her colleague Diana Sanchez. "I feel really bad. Three years ago they let us

ternational fashions and predicted that the measure would only push sales of imported clothing back into the black market.

"And the state isn't going

"The issue of goods purchased in stores for resale has generated constant opinions among the people, who complain about shortages and the high



A vendor reaches out to catch a pineapple at a food market where he purchases the fruit to then resell on the streets, on the outskirts in Havana, Cuba, Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2013. Cuban authorities on Thursday announced 18 new categories of independent employment that will be permitted under President Raul Castro's economic reforms, and also restrictions intended to regulate other private entrepreneurs already in business.

(AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

work here legally, and now they forbid it. I don't understand it." Mariela Carrera, a 45-year-old homemaker who was shopping at the open-air bazaar, said Cubans want to dress in in-

to make any money off that if nobody's paying taxes," she said. Also prohibited will be the "speculative" resale of goods bought in state-run retail stores.

prices set by the hoarders," Barreiro said. "Order will be imposed, since nobody is allowed to buy merchandise in a state-run establishment and then speculate with it," he added. □



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'Slave-like' labor found in Brazil airport project

SAO PAULO (AP) — A construction company working on the pre-World Cup expansion of Sao Paulo's international airport forced 111 men to work in slave-like conditions, according to Brazil's Labor Ministry. Labor Ministry inspector Renato Bignami told the G1 news portal of Globo TV that the OAS construction company made each worker pay the equivalent of \$250 dollars to secure a job.

Ministry officials said Thursday many had to sleep on thin mattresses spread out on the floor and lacked

for water, refrigerators and stoves.

In emailed statements, OAS and the airport denied any involvement in the hiring of the 111 workers and said they are cooperating with investigators.

While the workers apparently were not held against their will, they were forced to live in conditions so miserable that the Labor Ministry defines them as "slave-like."

G1 said the workers will each be compensated with the equivalent of \$3,000 and sent back to their hometowns. □



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Marriott Loss Prevention Team Attends Emergency Medical Response Training

PALM BEACH, ARUBA (SEPTEMBER 24, 2013) – The month of September celebrates Marriott's Global Safety and Security Month with focus on divers trainings for the Marriott Loss Prevention teams worldwide. Last week a group of ten Marriott Aruba's Loss Prevention officers received several trainings including the "Emergency

Medical Response" (EMR) at the Aruba Marriott. The training was provided by Mr. John Tromp of Instituto Medico San Nicolas (IM-SAN). During the 4 days of training the Loss Prevention team was demonstrated how to successfully execute the following scenarios: Patient Assessment/Management (Trauma &

Medical), BVM Ventilation of an Apneic Adult Patient, Oxygen Administration by non-rebreather Mask and Adult Cardiac Arrest Management/AED. Focusing on the Global Safety and Security Month, the Loss Prevention department was able to gain additional knowledge and instructions how to provide pre-medical care to



guests and colleagues. It is the first time for a hotel in Aruba to receive the Emergency Medical Response training.

The Aruba Marriott continues to strive to provide a safe and secure environment for guests and associates. □



Amazonia Churrascaria & Sushi Samba help celebrate special occasions!



PALM BEACH - Nathania Garcia, celebrated her 19th birthday with proud mom Stacey and sister Nathecia, at Amazonia Churrascaria. Mom has been at the restaurant before, yet wanted her daughters to experience it as well, on Nathania's special day. Alexander Ortiz who is a loyal repeat customer also celebrated his birthday, grateful for 36 fun filled years, in the company of family members and work colleagues. Amazonia Churrascaria recently invited Sushi Samba into its bar room, creating

an intimate sushi bar where the chef prepares his delectable fresh specialties in full view of dining room patrons. David Shaw and Tequirra Cox, on vacation at La Quinta, enjoyed the show and the supreme sushi, which they was the best they've had on the island! □



Beauty On The Beach

Emily Graham

She is from New Jersey, USA. It is her first time in Aruba and she is on her honeymoon.

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A Big Bugaloe Beach Bar Welcome to Newlyweds Jeremy & Kerri!

PALM BEACH - Bugaloe's guests of the week are Jeremy and Kerri Gabor from Hoboken, NJ. They're practically locals, since they have been coming to Aruba for 12 years now, and why wouldn't they? They love Aruba for the friendly people, beautiful weather and world-class beaches. Most likely you will see them 'Chilling Like Villains' at Bugaloe!. What keeps attracting them to Bugaloe are the crew members, the delicious food, superb music, beautiful 360 degree ocean view and cooling breeze. Meal of choice is the Grouper Sandwich and Cheeseburger, with

favorite drink of Jeremy the Mojito and for Kerri a chardonnay. Currently they are staying at the Radisson Hotel, where last week 20th of September they got married! Big congratulations from the Bugaloe crew! Another memory Kerri will definitely never forget is watching her husband sing out of tune with 'Joyride Band' to 'It's Getting Hot in Here', where luckily his dancing made up for his singing! Most of all, the Bugaloe Crew would like to thank Jeremy and Kerri for being such loyal Bugaloe guests, and wish them a great and happy future as husband and wife. □



Minister of Tourism visits Boardwalk Hotel

PALM BEACH - Minister of Tourism Otmar Oduber, along with Myrna Jansen, visited boutique hotel Boardwalk for the first time after it was completely renovated and changed owners. Minister Oduber was pleasantly surprised with the warm welcome he received and the transformation this small hotel in Palm Beach has made. The new owners, vibrant twin sisters Kimberly and Stephanie Rooijackers (29) were born in Aruba and left the island for Belgium where they grew up. They always returned to the island as visitors and it had always been their dream

to start a new life in Aruba. Two years ago that dream came true. When Boardwalk went up for sale, they purchased the property. Since 2011 they completely renovated and transformed this small hotel and turned it into trendy accommodations with Caribbean flair. Together with hotel mascot Lola, a cute Dachshund teckel, Kimberly and Stephaniewarmly welcomed Minister Oduber and Myrna Jansen with tropical dragon fruits and refreshments. They gave insight into their 1,3 million dollar renovation and showed the 14 fully refurbished and refreshed casitas. They also






gave the Minister a heads-up on plans for the future and showed their ranking on Tripadvisor as the second best hotel in Eagle and Palm Beach. Most recently Boardwalk received international recognition as it was named 'best hidden gem' in the Caribbean by USA Today. Minister Oduber was overall very impressed with the progress and results the twin sisters have booked so far and congratulated them on their accomplishments. He said to be particularly proud of the younger generation taking the lead in building on Aruba's future, upgrading the tour-



ism product. Pictures show Minister Oduber and Myrna Jansen during their Boardwalk visit. They were greeted by the entire team of Boardwalk, including sisters Kimberly and Stephanie

Rooijackers; housekeeping staff Carmen, who is serving 22 years at Boardwalk, and Veronica, with 17 years at Boardwalk; Front Desk Officer Alice and dog Lola, the hotel mascot. □



-  One way road
-  Right of way ahead
-  All traffic prohibited
-  No stopping or parking
-  One way road
Enter only this side
-  Right of way road
-  End of right of way road
-  Right of way at intersection
-  Oncoming traffic has
right of way
-  Stop. Right of way ahead
-  Do not pass
-  No Left turn
-  No Right turn





Bud Selig says he will retire in January 2015

RONALD BLUM
AP Sports Writer

Bud Selig said Thursday he plans to retire as Major League Baseball commissioner in January 2015 after a term of more than 22 years marked by robust growth in attendance and revenue along with a canceled World Series and a drug scandal.

The 79-year-old Selig said in 2003 that he would retire in 2006 but has repeatedly accepted new contracts. Some owners — even his wife — have been skeptical in the past that he really would do it, but this marked the first time he issued a formal statement that he intends to step down from the sport's top job.

"I look forward to continuing its extraordinary growth and addressing several significant issues during the



In this May 12, 2011, file photo, Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig listens to a question during a news conference in New York. Selig said in a formal statement Thursday, Sept. 26, 2013, that he plans to retire in January 2015.

Associated Press

remainder of my term," he said.

Selig said he will soon announce a transition plan that will include a reorganization of central baseball management.

He said he will leave on Jan. 24, 2015, which would mark the second-longest term for a baseball commissioner behind Kenesaw Mountain Landis, who served from November 1920 to November 1944.

Selig bought the Seattle Pilots in bankruptcy court in 1970 and moved the team to Milwaukee. He became a leading owner by the early 1980s in his role as chairman of the Player Relations Committee, which determined labor policy.

Continued on Page 20



Vikings player Cordarrelle Patterson runs the ball back during their football practice at the Grove Hotel in Watford, England, Thursday Sept. 26, 2013. The Pittsburgh Steelers are to play the Minnesota Vikings in the NFL International Series at Wembley Stadium in London on Sunday, Sept 29.

Associated Press

PAUL LOGOTHETIS
AP Sports Writer

WATFORD, England (AP) — The Minnesota Vikings are wondering if all the quality time they're spending together in London is really what they need to turn their season around.

Minnesota plays the Pittsburgh Steelers on Sunday at Wembley Stadium, an NFL International Series matchup featuring a pair of 0-3 teams.

Traveling abroad and adjusting to the jet lag

Vikings unsure if London trip is what they need

and time difference is a challenge. Plus, there's all that time stuck in the hotel with your teammates, coaches and front office staff. "I don't think we needed the distraction of traveling to another country to play a football game when we're trying to right the ship," defensive end Jared Allen said Thursday at the team's practice facility outside London. "But at same time if you use the time properly, you're kind of secluded and everyone is focused on winning the football game, then it could work. It's all about how people handle it." Minnesota is staying at a rural hotel

outside of London where England's national soccer team normally trains before international matches. A golf course surrounds the grounds. Apart from using the pools and baths, Vikings players have gotten into nightly games of bocci. Coach Leslie Frazier thinks the formula could work. "In London the team is doing things with one another so it's creating a bond, and friendships that will remain," he said. "I think it helps. It creates a chemistry that you need, a trust factor that is so important in team sports. Everyone has adjusted to the time schedule. The guys seem to be OK."

The prospect of setting up a permanent NFL franchise in London one day has been an ever-present topic this week, but the travel drain appears to keep players and coaches from completely endorsing the idea. "You could put a team (in London) but it's a lot to ask for a player," Allen said. "I wouldn't sign over here being that every road trip is 3-4-5 days away from your family, plus 11 hours for West Coast trips. It's tough on the players, family members, and logistically tough." After just three days in Britain, Allen sounded like someone who wouldn't sign up for the experience again. □

Venus advances to semifinals at Pan Pacific Open



Venus Williams of the U.S. reacts after getting a point against Eugenie Bouchard of Canada during their quarterfinal match of the Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament in Tokyo, Thursday, Sept. 26, 2013.

Associated Press

JIM ARMSTRONG

AP Sports Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Venus Williams beat Canadian teen Eugenie Bouchard 6-3, 6-7 (4), 6-3 to advance to the Pan Pacific Open semifinals for the first time on Thursday.

Williams, whose previous best in Tokyo was the quarterfinals in 2004, broke Bouchard with a forehand down the line to go up 5-2 in the third set and held on to win the match that lasted three hours at Ariake Colosseum.

"She played so well," Williams said. "She's going to be a great player — she's already a great player — and it was just a fight to the end." Williams will face Petra Kvitová in the semis. The seventh-seeded Czech beat Svetlana Kuznetsova 6-4, 6-1. Also, fourth-seeded Caroline Wozniacki beat Lucie Safarova of the Czech Republic 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 to set up a semifinal with fifth-seeded Angelique Kerber of Germany, who ousted second-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland 6-4, 6-4. Wozniacki and Kerber are 3-3 head to head. Wozniacki won their semifinal at Indian Wells in March. The 19-year-old Bouchard put Williams on notice when she built a 3-1 lead in the quarterfinal. Williams fought back to break the teenager three times in the first meeting of their careers. □

Kiwis question America's Cup future



Emirates Team New Zealand, right, and Oracle Team USA maneuver before the 14th race of the America's Cup sailing event on Sunday, Sept. 22, 2013, in San Francisco. The Golden Gate Bridge is partially visible in the distance.

Associated Press

STEVE McMORRAN

AP Sports Writer

WELLINGTON, New Zealand

(AP) — New Zealanders have begun to question whether their team's loss in the America's Cup on Thursday marks the end of the country's 26-year involvement in competing for sailing's oldest trophy. Team USA's 44-second win on Wednesday afternoon in San Francisco capped a historic come-from-behind victory which saw Team New Zealand give up an 8-1 lead to lose 9-8.

New Zealanders had seen its sailors come to within one win of overall victory in the first week of the finals series, then watched with growing anguish over the next seven days as Team USA rallied to retain the Cup with eight consecutive wins. Tens of thousands gathered at yacht clubs, bars and cafes around New Zealand again on Thursday to watch what seemed to many to be the last act in a slow-moving horror story as their hopes of winning the Cup for a third time sputtered and died. The final race screened at 8.15 a.m. New Zealand time, lasting around 25 minutes, at the end of which fans, whose numbers had swelled steadily through the finals series, made their way to work or to school in a mood of numbed disap-

pointment.

A national debate has already begun about New Zealand's future in the America's Cup and whether this nation of 4.5 million can find both the ambition and the resources, financial or otherwise, to challenge again for the "Auld Mug." Team New Zealand relied on a \$36 million contribution from the New Zealand government on top of a collection of sponsorships to mount its latest challenge.

Surveys showed that at the height of the regatta in San Francisco, as Team New Zealand edged closer to victory, a majority of New Zealanders favored further government funding in the expectation of a major economic boost from a Cup defense in Auckland. But as defeat became more imminent, support for a further injection of taxpayer funds dwindled and the New Zealand's current, center-right government will now question whether, in a time of relative austerity, further funding would be warranted — or popular. Prime Minister John Key, who watched the final race from New York where he is attending the general assembly of the United Nations and called it "gut-wrenching," said "there's a lot of things you have to consider before

you put taxpayers' money on the line. "It's too early to have those discussions today," he said. "(Team New Zealand) I am sure will want to regroup, think about what their next steps are and we will want to sit down and have a discussion with them." Team New Zealand first challenged for the America's Cup off Fremantle, Western Australia in 1987, causing immediate ripples in what had been an insular Cup community by designing and racing the world's first fiberglass 12-meter yacht.

They reached the finals of the challenger series before losing to the eventual winner, American Cup legend Dennis Conner. After failing in 1992, New Zealand won the Cup for the first time off San Diego in 1995, in a yacht helmed by Russell Coutts.

Coutts was again helmsman when New Zealand defended the trophy in Auckland in 2000, becoming the first team outside the United States to do so. But he left Team New Zealand immediately after that regatta and returned in 2003 to win the Cup for the third-straight time as helmsman for the Swiss syndicate Alinghi.

Coutts then joined Oracle Team USA and won the trophy from Alinghi in 2010. Grant Dalton, who suc-

ceeded Coutts as head of Team New Zealand, has already indicated he is unlikely to continue and it now seems likely that Team New Zealand, whose sailing team in San Francisco was much older than Team USA's, might drift apart.

Andy Anderson, the vice-commodore of the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron, which has been the official yacht club of Team New Zealand since it was formed, acknowledged the team's future is uncertain.

"It's a very big task (to challenge again)," he said. "We'll certainly need the sponsors and people to back it who are real believers."

Anderson said New Zealanders could at least take heart that Coutts' involvement meant there was a Kiwi behind Team USA and that both boats were built in New Zealand.

But Jenny de Lisle, who watched the race at the Royal Port Nicholson Yacht Club in Wellington, spoke for more rueful New Zealanders who watched for a week while its team was becalmed one win away from victory.

"I feel sorry for the guys," she said. "Today they sailed a great race and did everything they could. It's been tough ... like a bad dream." □

Scherzer wins 21st, Tigers take AL Central

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Max Scherzer earned his 21st win and the Detroit Tigers clinched their third straight AL Central title, beating the Minnesota Twins 1-0 on Wednesday night.

Torii Hunter's single followed a leadoff triple by Austin Jackson in the first inning, and that was all Scherzer (21-3) and manager Jim Leyland's Tigers needed to start the party. Scherzer gave up two singles in seven innings. Jose Veras and Drew Smyly teamed up for the eighth and Joaquin Benoit worked the ninth for his 24th save in 25 tries.

A few dozen Tigers fans in attendance at Target Field cheered from their seats while Miguel Cabrera and his teammates mobbed Benoit in front of the mound after he struck out Josh Willingham to end the game.

Scherzer struck out 10 and lowered his ERA to 2.90, ensuring he'll finish the season with the most wins in the major leagues.

Kevin Correia (9-13) took the loss.

RAYS 8, YANKEES 3

NEW YORK (AP) — The



Detroit Tigers pitcher Max Scherzer throws against the Minnesota Twins during the fourth inning of a baseball game, Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2013, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

New York Yankees failed to make the playoffs for only the second time in 19 years, getting mathematically eliminated during their loss to Tampa Bay.

Evan Longoria homered twice as the Rays won their sixth straight and lowered to three their magic number over Texas for clinching an AL wild-card berth.

Selig

Continued from Page18

He was part of the group that forced Fay Vincent's resignation and he took over as acting commissioner on Sept. 9, 1992, in his role as chairman of the executive council.

While he presided over a 7½-month strike in 1994-95 that led to the cancellation of the World Series for the first time in 90 years, MLB and its players have had labor peace since.

Although he repeatedly said he would not take the job full time, he was formally elected commissioner July 9, 1998. He turned running the Brewers over to his daughter Wendy, but the Selig family did not sell the franchise until 2005.

Selig agreed to new contracts in 2001 and 2004. He first announced his planned retirement in



In this Jan. 17, 2008, file photo, Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig speaks to reporters during a news conference in Scottsdale, Ariz. Selig said in a formal statement Thursday, Sept. 26, 2013, that he plans to retire in January 2015.

Associated Press

2003, telling a group from Associated Press Sports Editors he would leave when his current term expired at the end of 2006.

"For a guy who took it in

Sept. 9, 1992, and I told my wife it was two-to-four months — 14 years later ... I think that will be enough. There's no question, because there are other things I really would like to do." Asked again if this was his final term, Selig responded; "Oh, there's no question."

He then agreed to new contracts in 2004, 2008 and 2012. Selig was at the helm while baseball was criticized for being slow to react to the rise of performance-enhancing drugs. Management didn't have a drug agreement with its players from October 1985 until August 2002, and drug testing with penalties didn't start until 2004. Selig has repeatedly defended his record, saying baseball acted as fast as it could in a matter that was subject to bargaining with players. □

Slowed by age and hobbled by injury, the Yankees (82-76) were chased with two outs in the bottom of the eighth inning when Cleveland completed a 7-2 win over the White Sox. Despite baseball's highest opening-day payroll at \$230 million, the Yankees failed to claim one of the 10 playoff spots.

Since starting the latest run of success in 1995, New York had missed the playoffs only in 2008.

David Price (9-8) ended a five-start winless streak, one shy of his career worst, and Longoria drove in four runs. Phil Hughes (4-14) allowed three early runs.

RANGERS 7, ASTROS 3

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Leonys Martin hit a three-run double, Ian Kinsler homered and the Texas Rangers kept pace in the AL wild-card chase, handing Houston its 12th loss in a row and team-record 108th defeat this season.

Texas completed a three-game sweep and finished 17-2 with 11 straight wins against their in-state rival.

The Rangers remained a game behind Cleveland for the AL's second wild-card spot — Tampa Bay is a game ahead of the Indians. Texas has four games left in the regular season, with the series opener at home against the Los Angeles Angels on Thursday night.

Rookie left-hander Martin Perez (10-5) struck out eight over seven innings. Dallas Keuchel (6-10) took the loss.

INDIANS 7, WHITE SOX 2

CLEVELAND (AP) — Rookie Danny Salazar gave Cleveland a much-needed quality start and Nick Swisher hit a two-run homer as the Indians tightened their grip one of the AL wild-card spots with their 14th straight win over the Chicago White Sox.

Salazar (2-3) struck out eight in 5 1-3 innings for the Indians, who won their final six home games to stay with the wild-card leaders. The Indians lead Texas by one game for the second wild-card slot. They are

one game behind Tampa Bay for the top spot.

Swisher homered in the fifth inning off Dylan Axelrod (4-11) as the Indians finished the season 16-2 against Chicago.

ANGELS 3, ATHLETICS 1

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Jered Weaver pitched seven innings of five-hit ball, Josh Hamilton drove in two runs and the Los Angeles Angels did a bit more damage to Oakland's home-field playoff hopes.

Erick Aybar had three hits in the Angels' final home game of their disappointing season.

Dan Straily (10-8) allowed seven hits while pitching into the seventh inning of his first loss since Aug. 17 for the AL West champion A's. Weaver (11-8) finished his season impressively after missing last week's scheduled start with tightness in his right forearm.

Ernesto Frieri pitched the ninth for his 37th save.

MARINERS 6, ROYALS 0

SEATTLE (AP) — Hisashi Iwakuma pitched eight scoreless innings and Mike Zunino homered twice as the Seattle Mariners ended Kansas City's playoff hopes.

All three teams ahead of Kansas City in the wild-card hunt — Tampa Bay, Cleveland and Texas — won on Wednesday.

The Royals' loss eliminated them.

Ervin Santana (9-10) matched Iwakuma (14-6) and kept the Mariners scoreless for the first four innings before Seattle broke through.

ORIOLES 9, BLUE JAYS 5

BALTIMORE (AP) — Ryan Flaherty hit a pair of two-run homers, Jonathan Schoop had a solo shot in his big league debut and the Baltimore Orioles beat Toronto to snap a six-game skid and clinch their second straight winning season.

Steve Pearce also homered for Baltimore and Chris Davis doubled in a run to increase his RBI total to 137, tied with Detroit's Miguel Cabrera for the major league lead. □

Cards win, clinch tie for Central

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Rookie Shelby Miller won his 15th game, and Yadier Molina had the go-ahead hit for St. Louis, which wrapped up a three-game sweep of Washington and moved another step closer to the NL Central title with a 4-1 victory Wednesday.

Jordan Zimmermann (19-9) missed his only shot at 20 wins, allowing four runs in seven innings. The Nationals had five hits one day after breaking up rookie Michael Wacha's bid for a no-hitter with two outs in the ninth inning.

Matt Adams hit his eighth home run since replacing injured Allen Craig and doubled for the Cardinals (94-65), who are a season-high 29 games above .500. Miller (15-9) walked two of the first three hitters to set up Bryce Harper's RBI single. Miller allowed a run in

six-plus innings.

Rookie Trevor Rosenthal saved all three games.

Zimmermann had won his previous four appearances and had been coming off a two-hit shutout of Miami. But he is 0-3 with a 8.27 ERA in six career starts against St. Louis, and lost Game 2 of the NL division series last fall.

METS 1, REDS 0

CINCINNATI (AP) — Daisuke Matsuzaka scattered four hits in 7 2-3 innings to win his third consecutive start, out-dueling Cincinnati's Mat Latos.

Eric Young Jr. drove in the only run for the Mets, who won two of three in the series to further dampen Cincinnati's hopes of hosting the NL wild-card playoff game on Tuesday.

Matsuzaka (3-3) allowed two walks and hit a batter. He struck out six and



St. Louis Cardinals' Yadier Molina celebrates as he looks into the dugout after hitting a two-run single during the fourth inning of a baseball game against the Washington Nationals Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2013, in St. Louis.

Associated Press

Twitter, NFL reach deal to show football videos

NEW YORK (AP) — The National Football league struck a deal to show game highlights and other video content on Twitter ahead of the short messaging service's initial public offering of stock.

The deal is part of Twitter's "Amplify" program, which lets TV broadcasters show ad-supported video clips in users' Twitter feeds as the users discuss what they are watching on TV in real time. Other partners include The Weather Channel, the National Basketball Association, Warner Music

and CBS.

The NFL and Twitter said Thursday that the deal will let football fans interact with NFL video content created specifically for Twitter — on computers, tablets or mobile devices. Content will include highlights from in-game highlights from NFL Network's Thursday Night Football and clips from other regular season and post-season games, along with news, analysis and fantasy football advice.

The NFL said this is the first time it has partnered with a social media company. □

evened his record after three losses and a no-decision in his first four starts after joining the Mets in August.

He left the game with a runner on second and two outs in the eighth. Pedro Feliciano came on to walk Shin-Soo Choo before getting Joey Votto to fly out to center for the fourth time in four at-bats.

LaTroy Hawkins pitched the ninth for his 13th save.

The shutout loss was Cincinnati's 11th of the season, after only four last year.

The Mets (73-85) earned their 10th shutout, three fewer than last season, and New York finished its road schedule with a winning record (41-40), wrapping up a 5-1 trip.

CUBS 4, PIRATES 2

CHICAGO (AP) — Darnell McDonald hit a three-run homer to lead Chicago to the win that really hurt Pittsburgh's hopes of winning the NL Central.

With three games remaining in the regular season for each team, the Pirates trail division-leading St. Louis by three games.

The Pirates, who already have clinched a playoff spot, hold a one-game lead over Cincinnati for the first wild-card slot. Pittsburgh and the Reds finish up with a three-game set in Cincinnati this weekend.

McDonald had three hits,

including his homer in the sixth inning that put the Cubs ahead 4-1.

Jake Arrieta (4-2) allowed one run and four hits for the Cubs. Kevin Gregg allowed an unearned run in the ninth for his 33rd save.

Francisco Liriano (16-8) allowed four runs and eight hits in five innings. He struck out eight and walked one.

BREWERS 4, BRAVES 0

ATLANTA (AP) — Kyle Lohse pitched a two-hitter and Milwaukee overcame Carlos Gomez's ejection in the first inning.

NL East champion Atlanta was shut out for the second time in three nights and has been blanked 17 times, second-most in the league. After losing three of four, Atlanta has fallen three games behind St. Louis for the NL's best winning percentage.

Lohse (11-10) struck out five and threw just 22 of 89 pitches for balls.

Gomez, made it 1-0 in the first with his 23rd homer, but was ejected without touching home plate during a benches-clearing argument.

Braves first baseman Freddie Freeman and reserve catcher Gerald Laird were also ejected.

Paul Maholm (10-11) gave up eight hits — including Gomez's homer — and struck out seven in seven innings.

Lohse, facing Atlanta for the first time this season, began the night 3-1 with a 4.97 ERA in 10 career starts against the Braves.

MARLINS 3, PHILLIES 2

MIAMI (AP) — Adeiny Hechavarria drove in three runs, including a go-ahead run in the eighth inning, for Miami.

Hechavarria hit a two-run triple in the second before driving in the run that made it 3-2 on a fielder's choice.

Justin Ruggiano walked and Placido Polanco singled for his third hit in the eighth off Ethan Martin (2-5) before Hechavarria hit a grounder to shortstop Jimmy Rollins, whose throw went wide of catcher Carlos Ruiz allowing Ruggiano to slide in safely.

Steve Cishek pitched the ninth for his 33rd save in 35 chances. It was Cishek's 28th consecutive save setting the team record previously held by Todd Jones in 2005.

Chad Qualls (5-2) got the final out in the eighth to earn the victory.

Phillies starter Cole Hamels pitched six innings and allowed two runs. He struck out six as he reached 200 strikeouts (202) in a season for the third time in his career and the second consecutive season.

The 2008 World Series MVP finished his season with an 8-14 record and 3.60 ERA. □





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EA Sports settles college athlete likeness cases

By RALPH D. RUSSO

AP College Football Writer
NEW YORK (AP) --

The NCAA is now on its own in the legal battle over whether athletes should share in the money made from the use of their likenesses.

Electronic Arts and the Collegiate Licensing Company have settled all lawsuits brought against the companies by former and current college athletes over the unauthorized use of the players' images and likenesses in video games and other merchandise.

The NCAA is not part of the settlements, which includes the O'Bannon case. Brought by former UCLA basketball star Ed O'Bannon, that lawsuit was asking for the NCAA, EA and CLC to share billions of dollars in revenues - including those made from massive television rights deals - with college athletes.

The settlement was submitted for approval to the U.S. District Court in Northern California and the terms were confidential.

"We learned of this notional settlement today," said

Donald Remy, chief legal officer for the NCAA. "We have asked for, but have not yet received, the terms so we cannot comment further."

Remy told USA Today in a story posted earlier that the NCAA was prepared to take the O'Bannon case and others like it to the Supreme Court.

The other cases settled were brought by former Rutgers quarterback Ryan Hart, former Nebraska and Arizona State quarterback Sam Keller and former West Virginia running back Shawne Alston.

"Today's settlement is a game-changer because, for the first time, student-athletes suing up to play this weekend are going to be paid for the use of their likenesses," said Houston-based attorney Eugene Egdorf in a statement. Egdorf represents Hart, who sued EA Sports in 2009.

"We view this as the first step toward our ultimate goal of making sure all student-athletes can claim their fair share of the billions of dollars generated each year by college sports,"

Egdorf said.

Seattle-based lawyer Steve Berman, who is the lead attorney on the Keller case, said that the settlement will allow attorneys to focus on claims against the NCAA.

"We hold that the NCAA intentionally looked the other way while EA commercialized the likenesses of students, and it did so because it knew that EA's financial success meant a bigger royalty check to the NCAA," Berman said in a statement.

It is against NCAA rules for college athletes to profit from their names, likenesses and popularity.

A judge in California is considering whether the O'Bannon case can become a class-action lawsuit. Other former college athletes who are plaintiffs in that case include basketball great Oscar Robertson. Earlier this year, the first current college football players were added to the O'Bannon complaint.

Michael Hausfeld, the lead attorney in the O'Bannon case, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.



In an image provided by EA Sports, former Alabama tailback Mark Ingram appears on the cover of NCAA Football 12.

Associated Press

Earlier Thursday, EA Sports announced it wouldn't make a college football video game next year because of the ongoing legal

issues.

Cam Weber, the company's vice president for football, said in a statement on the EA Sports website that "the ongoing legal issues combined with increased questions surrounding schools and conferences have left us in a difficult position."

Weber adds that the Redwood City, Calif., company is "evaluating our plan for the future of the franchise."

EA Sports began making an NCAA Football game in 1998. The company's Madden football franchise, however, is more popular.

Weber likened EA's use of athletes' images in its games to "companies that broadcast college games and those that provide equipment and apparel." □

Horner, Van Garderen aim for road race medal

ANDREW DAMPF

AP Sports Writer

FLORENCE, Italy (AP) — Americans Christopher Horner and Tejay van Garderen believe that have a shot at winning the road race Sunday at the cycling world championships.

And with an American team strong from top to bottom supporting them, it's slightly surprising that the U.S. riders are still not considered a major threat. Van Garderen says "there's the obvious favorites like

(Alejandro) Valverde, (Philippe) Gilbert, (Peter) Sagan, (Vincenzo) Nibali. We're not really having the pressure of having an outstanding leader. But I think we have a good shot."

Van Garderen finished fifth in last year's Tour de France and at 25 is considered a rider capable of winning a Grand Tour one day.

Horner just won the Spanish Vuelta at the advanced age of 41 to become the oldest winner of a Grand Tour. □



U.S. cyclist Tejay van Garderen, second from right, trains with unidentified teammates during a no-race day at the road cycling world championships, in Fiesole, near Florence, Italy, Thursday, Sept. 26, 2013. The worlds conclude on Sunday with the featured road race over a 272-kilometer (169-mile) route that starts in Lucca near the coast and ends with 10 laps of a hilly circuit in and around Florence.

Associated Press

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Google's 'Hummingbird' hatches new search formula

MICHAEL LIETKE

AP Technology Writer

MENLO PARK, California

(AP) — Google has quietly retooled the closely guarded formula running its Internet search engine to give better answers to the increasingly complex questions posed by Web surfers. The overhaul came as part of an update called "Hummingbird" that Google Inc. has gradually rolled out in the past month without disclosing the modifications. The changes could have a major impact on traffic to websites. Hummingbird represents the most dramatic alteration to Google's search engine since it revised the way it indexes websites three years ago as part of a redesign called "Caffeine," according to Amit Singhal, a senior vice president for the company. He estimates that the redesign will affect the analysis of about 90 percent of the search requests that Google gets.

Any reshuffling of Google's search rankings can have sweeping ramifications because they steer so much of the Internet's traffic. Google fields about two of out every three search requests in the U.S. and handles an even larger volume in some parts of Europe. The changes could also drive up the price of Google ads tied to search requests if websites whose rankings are demoted under the new system feel they have to buy the marketing messages to attract traffic. The search ads and other commercial pitches related to Web content account for most of Google's revenue, which is expected to approach \$60 billion this year. Google disclosed the existence of the new search formula Thursday at an event held in the Menlo

Park, California, garage where CEO Larry Page and fellow co-founder Sergey Brin started the company 15 years ago. Google celebrates its birthday on Sept. 27 each year, even though the company was incorporated a few weeks earlier. The company is now based in Mountain View, California, at a sprawling complex located about seven miles from the 1,900-square-foot home where Page and Brin paid \$1,700 per month to rent the garage and a bedroom. The co-founders' landlord was Susan Wojcicki, who is now a top Google executive and Brin's sister-in-law.

Wojcicki sold the home to Google in 2006 and it is now maintained as a monument to the company's humble beginnings. Google's renovations to its search engine haven't triggered widespread complaints from other websites yet, suggesting that the revisions haven't resulted

in a radical reshuffling in how websites rank in the recommendations. The Caffeine update spurred a loud outcry because it explicitly sought to weed out websites that tried to trick Google's search engine into believing their content was related to common search requests. After Caffeine kicked in, hundreds of websites that consistently won a coveted spot near the top of Google's search results had been relegated to the back pages or exiled completely. Hummingbird is primarily aimed at giving Google's search engine a better grasp at understanding concepts instead of mere words, Singhal said.

The change needed to be done, Singhal said, because people have become so reliant on Google that they now routinely enter lengthy questions into the search box instead of just a few words related to specific topics. Just as Page and Brin set out to do when



they started Google in a garage, "we want to keep getting better at helping you make the most of your life," Singhal said.

Besides Hummingbird, Google also announced a few other updates to existing search features aimed at providing information more concisely so people won't need to navigate to another website. These changes are part of Google's effort to adapt to the smaller screens of smartphones that aren't well suited for hopscotching across the Internet. The additions primarily affect Google's "Knowledge Graph," an encyclope-

dia-like box that increasingly appears at the top or alongside the search results, and Google Now, a virtual assistant that tailors key information suited to each user's habits, interest and location.

Besides providing informational snapshots of famous people and landmarks, the Knowledge Graph is now capable of comparing the attributes of two different things, such as olive oil and coconut oil. It will also be possible to ask the Knowledge Graph to sort through certain types of information, such as the creative evolution of various artists. □

Ford buys software startup Livio

DEE-ANN DURBIN

AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Ford Motor Co. said Thursday that it acquired the startup company Livio in a bid to accelerate its efforts to help drivers safely access content on their smartphone while on the road.

Livio, which is based in the Detroit suburb of Ferndale, Michigan, develops software that lets drivers connect to their smartphones through their car radios or dashboard infotainment systems. It was founded five years ago by Jake Sigal, a former employee of parts supplier Delphi Corp. Ford paid less than \$10



million for the 11-person startup, said Paul Mascarenas, Ford's chief technical officer. Though owned by Ford, Livio will keep supply-

ing its current customers, including General Motors Co. Livio is Ford's first technology acquisition in 13 years.

Mascarenas said Livio complements Ford's efforts to allow drivers to safely access phone apps like Pandora, Major League Baseball and Spotify from their cars. Ford's Applink system, which lets drivers access their apps through voice recognition, will be inside an estimated 7 million vehicles by 2015, Mascarenas said.

Mascarenas said he and Sigal began talking about an acquisition earlier this year.

Sigal said joining Ford will help his company's efforts to promote a single standard for in-vehicle connectivity. □

Encouraging news on jobs, retailers lifts stocks

BY STEVE ROTHWELL

AP Markets writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Upbeat news about jobs and retailers helped the Standard & Poor's 500 index snap its longest losing streak of the year on Thursday.

U.S. unemployment claims fell close to their lowest level in six years, the government reported, and J.C. Penney and Bed Bath & Beyond delivered encouraging news.

The positive trends outweighed worries about a potential government shutdown in Washington next week.

Those concerns had led the S&P 500 index to five consecutive days of declines, the index's worst run in 2013.

That ended Thursday when the S&P 500 index rose six points, or 0.4 percent, to close at 1,698.67.

"There's a little bit of a bounce here," said Robert Pavlik, chief market strategist at Banyan Partners. "It may be a little bit of bargain hunting."

The broad index is less than two percent below its all-time high from Sept. 18.

U.S. economic growth rose to an annual rate of 2.5 percent from April through June, the Commerce Department reported Thursday. That was an increase from the 1.1 percent growth in the previous quarter.

Applications for unemployment benefits fell 5,000 to a seasonally adjusted 305,000 last week, the government said, the fewest since September 2007, three months before the Great Recession began.

While the economic news was encouraging, it wasn't spectacular. Some analysts said it justified the Federal Reserve's surprise decision last week to keep up its economic stimulus.

The U.S. central bank has been buying \$85 billion of bonds a month to keep

Growth-sensitive retail stocks were among the best performers in the 10 industry groups that make up the S&P 500 index.

The group got a lift from the troubled department store owner J.C. Penney, which said it was pleased with its turnaround efforts.

or 0.4 percent, to 15,328. The Nasdaq climbed 26 points, or 0.7 percent, to 3,787.

In government bond trading, the yield on the 10-year note edged up to 2.64 percent from 2.63 percent late Wednesday.

Among other stocks mak-



Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, left, is escorted by NYSE CEO Duncan Niederauer as they tour the trading floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Upbeat news about jobs and retailers helped the Standard & Poor's 500 index snap its longest losing streak of the year on Thursday.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

long-term interest rates low, which has encouraged borrowing and driven up stock prices.

Wall Street had expected the Fed to start easing back on its stimulus.

"It's fair to say that the Fed got it right by delaying," the cuts to stimulus, said Ron Florance, deputy chief investment officer for Wells Fargo Private Bank. "Growth is uninteresting and subdued."

J.C. Penney's stock rose 30 cents, or 3 percent, to end at \$10.42. The stock climbed as high as \$11.22 during the day.

Bed Bath & Beyond also gave the industry a boost. The stock climbed \$3.32, or 4 percent, to \$77.54 after the company said its quarterly profit increased 11 percent.

Other stock indexes rose. The Dow Jones industrial average climbed 55 points,

ing big moves;

— Hertz fell \$4.15, or 16 percent, to \$21.63 after the car rental company cut its earnings and revenue forecasts because of weaker-than-expected demand at U.S. airports.

— Caesars Entertainment slipped \$1.08, or 5 percent, to \$19.84 after the company said late Wednesday that it plans to sell up to 11.5 million of its shares in a public offering. □

US sells more GM shares, cuts stake to 7 pct.

TOM KRISHER

AP Auto Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. government is starting another phase of selling off its General Motors stock after cutting its stake in the automaker to just over 7 percent.

The Treasury Department says it still owns 101.3 million GM shares. It got 912 million shares, a 60.8 percent stake in the company, in exchange for a \$49.5 billion bailout of GM in 2009.

So far taxpayers have recovered about \$36 billion. That means they're still around \$13.5 billion in the hole.

To break even, the remaining shares would have to sell for about \$133 each. At the Thursday morning trading price of \$36.89, the government would get about \$3.7 billion more. So taxpayers are likely to lose around \$10 billion on the deal.

The Treasury plans to sell all of its shares by April 1.

The bailout was authorized under both the Bush and Obama administrations during the financial crisis in 2008 and 2009. At the time GM's sales had plummeted and it nearly ran out of cash to make payroll and service billions of dollars in debt.

The government said at the time that the bailout was necessary to save the American auto industry and stop the industrial Midwest from sliding into a depression. The Obama administration says bailing out GM and Chrysler saved more than a million American jobs.

The Treasury Department said it finished the second phase of selling GM stock on Sept. 13. "The third trading plan will allow us to continue exiting the investment in accordance with our previously announced timetable while maximizing the taxpayer's return," Tim Massad, assistant treasury secretary for financial stability, said in a statement. □

Oil rises above \$103 a barrel on US data

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The price of oil rose for the first time in six days on upbeat news about the U.S. economy. Benchmark oil for November delivery gained 37 cents Thursday to close at \$103.03 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Oil had dropped \$5.41, or 5 percent, over the five previous trading sessions. Oil prices rose

as data showed that the number of Americans seeking unemployment benefits fell 5,000 last week to a seasonally adjusted 305,000, the second-lowest level in six years. The U.S. economy, meanwhile, was confirmed to have grown an annualized 2.5 percent in the April-June period.

Oil has fallen nearly 7 percent since closing at a two-year high of \$110.53

on Sept. 6. Since then, diplomatic efforts have averted a U.S. military strike against Syria, and tense relations between the U.S. and Iran have shown signs of a thaw. As a result, the market has removed the so-called political risk premium from the price of oil. Some analysts put this premium at about \$5 to \$6 a barrel. Brent crude, the benchmark for internation-

al crudes used by many U.S. refineries, rose 89 cents to \$109.21 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange in London.

In other energy futures trading on Nymex:

— Wholesale gasoline rose 3 cents to \$2.71 per gallon.

— Natural gas rose 1 cent to \$3.50 per 1,000 cubic feet.

— Heating oil rose 3 cents to \$3.00 per gallon. □

Nike Inc. 1st quarter net income lifts

BEAVERTON, Oregon (AP)

— Nike's first-quarter net income rose 38 percent, boosted by strong demand for its namesake brand and revenue growth in every region except China.

Results beat expectations and the company's shares rose 5.8 percent in after-market trading.

The athletic goods maker has been dealing with Europe's fluctuating economy and a slowdown in growth in China. The company has been working to reduce its inventory in China and reworking its offerings there to adapt to the changing tastes of Chinese consumers. Meanwhile, it has been enjoying strong demand in North America, where it has been selling off less profitable brands like Umbro to focus on core brands like Nike.

Nike Inc. said Thursday its net income for the three months that ended on Aug. 31 rose to \$780 million, or 86 cents per share. That compares with net income of \$567 million, or 63 cents per share a year ago. That beat analyst expectations of 78 cents per share, according to research firm FactSet.

Net income was helped by easing costs for raw materials and selling fewer items at a discount, partly offset by higher labor costs and the stronger dollar.

The company, based in Beaverton, Oregon, says revenue rose 8 percent to \$6.97 billion. Analysts expected revenue of \$6.96 billion. Nike brand revenue rose 7 percent to \$6.5 billion and was higher in running, basketball, soccer and men's training. That offset a slight decline in sportswear. Converse revenue rose 16 percent to \$494 million.

Revenue rose in all regions except China, where revenue fell 3 percent to \$574 million. Orders for goods scheduled to be delivered between September and January 2014 rose 8 percent. □

Smithfield Foods closes sale to China's Shuanghui

M. FELBERBAUM

AP Business Writer

RICHMOND, Virginia (AP)

— Pork producer Smithfield Foods Inc. on Thursday completed its sale to Shuanghui International Holdings Ltd., the largest shareholder of China's biggest meat processor.

The \$34 per share deal approved by shareholders earlier this week is the largest takeover of a U.S. company by a Chinese firm, valued at about \$7.1 billion including debt. The Smithfield, Virginia, company's sale to Shuanghui comes at a time of serious food safety problems in China, some of which have involved Shuanghui, which owns food and logistics enterprises.

The deal marked a new era for the world's biggest pork producer and processor and would unlock growth opportunities in the Chinese market, said Smithfield CEO Larry Pope in a statement. He added that "(Smithfield) will continue to be defined by the strictest adherence to the highest standards of food safety and quality."

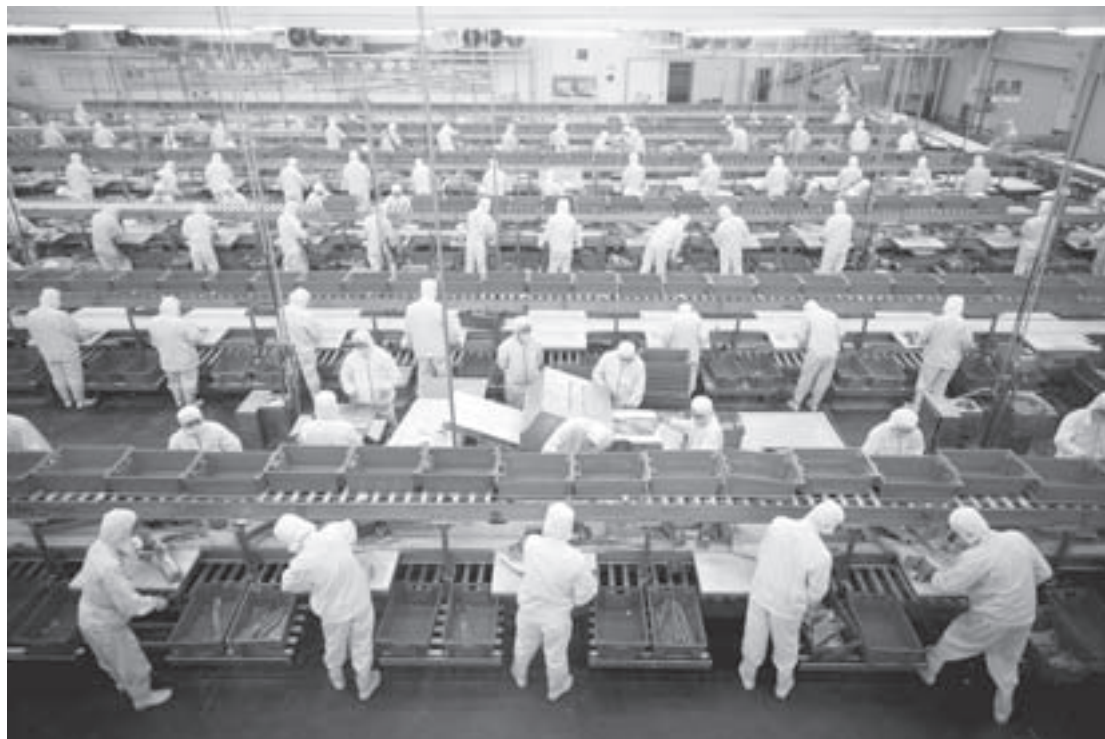
Smithfield Foods, whose brands include Armour, Farmland and its namesake, was founded in 1936. It has grown to annual sales of \$13 billion and has about 46,000 employees. Pork producers such as Smithfield have been caught in a tug of war with consumers. The company

needs to raise prices to offset rising commodity costs, namely the corn it uses for feed. But shoppers are still extremely sensitive to price changes in the current economy. By raising prices, Smithfield risks cutting into

ments with Smithfield workers.

The acquisition highlights what could be growing interest in American food by Chinese consumers. Foreign food, such as milk powder from New Zea-

Shuanghui's reputation was battered in 2011 when state broadcaster CCTV revealed its pork contained clenbuterol — a banned chemical that makes pork leaner but can be harmful to humans.



Employees work on production lines at a pork processing plant owned by Henan Shuanghui Group Ltd., in Luohe, in central China's Henan province. Smithfield Foods Inc. on Thursday completed its sale to Shuanghui, the largest shareholder of China's biggest meat processor.

(AP Photo/Alexander F. Yuan)

its sales should consumers cut back or buy cheaper meats, such as chicken. Smithfield has said that the buyout and China's growing demand for pork will be a boon for American agriculture and an opportunity to export to new markets. Smithfield's existing management team will remain in place and Shuanghui also will honor labor agree-

land and vegetables from neighboring Asian countries, is prized by Chinese consumers because of the frequent domestic food safety scandals.

In one of the most notorious incidents, six babies died and 300,000 were sickened in 2008 from drinking infant formula and other dairy tainted with the industrial chemical melamine. And

Earlier this month, a U.S. committee that reviews mergers between American and overseas companies for national-security implications cleared the deal.

Some U.S. lawmakers had questioned the transaction, convening a Senate Agriculture Committee hearing in July to discuss the deal. □

EBay to buy payments company Braintree for \$800M

BARBARA ORTUTAY

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP)

— E-commerce giant eBay Inc. reached a deal to buy online and mobile payments technology provider Braintree for \$800 million in cash. The move comes as eBay's PayPal unit works to evolve from its roots as an online payments provider, expanding its offline, mobile and online offerings to stores, restaurants and other business. Braintree's payments technology is used by popular startups such as vacation rentals site Airbnb,

cab-hailing app Uber and restaurant reservations site OpenTable. The company charges businesses a fee of 2.9 percent plus 30 cents per each transaction, and expects to process about \$12 billion in payments this year. San Jose, California-based eBay Inc. said Thursday that it will operate Braintree as a separate business. Bill Ready, the CEO of the Chicago-based company, will report to PayPal President David Marcus. "Braintree will continue to do what it's currently doing," Marcus said,

adding that PayPal will help the company to grow and to expand internationally. EBay said that Braintree's mobile app, Venmo, will help add to PayPal's mobile payments capabilities. The app lets people pay each other using their mobile devices, similar to a service PayPal offers. Braintree's roughly 200 employees are staying with the company.

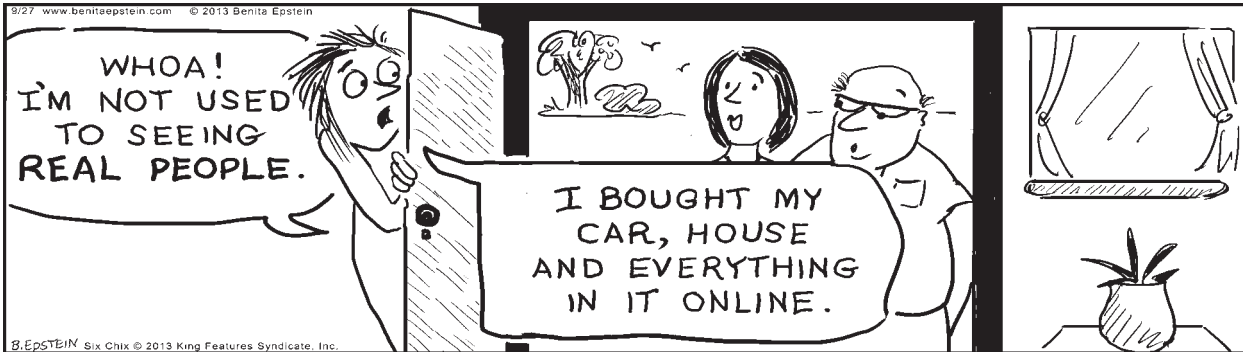
"(The) addition of Braintree removes a growing competitor in the payment space while adding key talent and technology" to

eBay, said Janney Capital Markets analyst Shawn Milne in a note to investors. Milne estimates Braintree's revenue to be around \$100 million to \$150 million a year. EBay said it expects to close the deal before the end of the year. It doesn't expect the acquisition to affect its 2013 revenue, but it will lower its adjusted earnings per share by 1 cent. In July, the company forecast adjusted earnings of \$2.70 to \$2.75 per share and revenue of \$16 billion to \$16.5 billion for the full year. □

Mutts



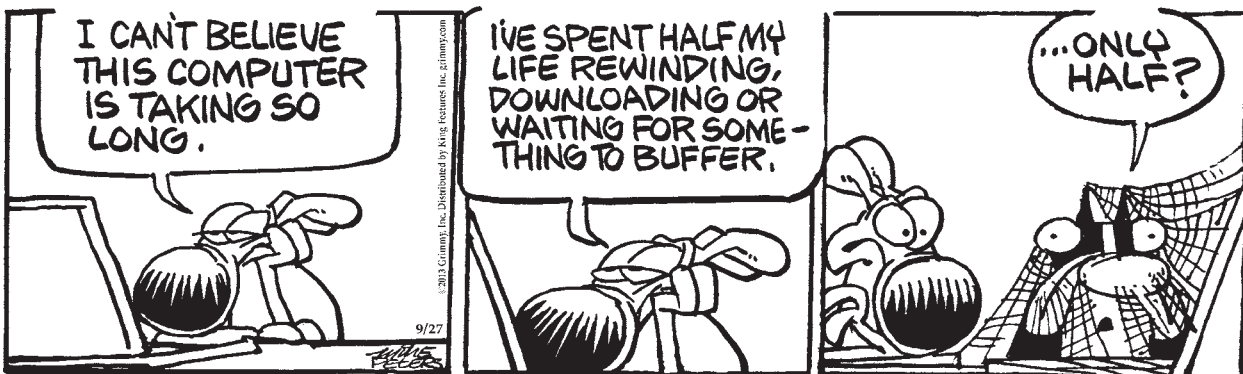
6 Chix



Blondie



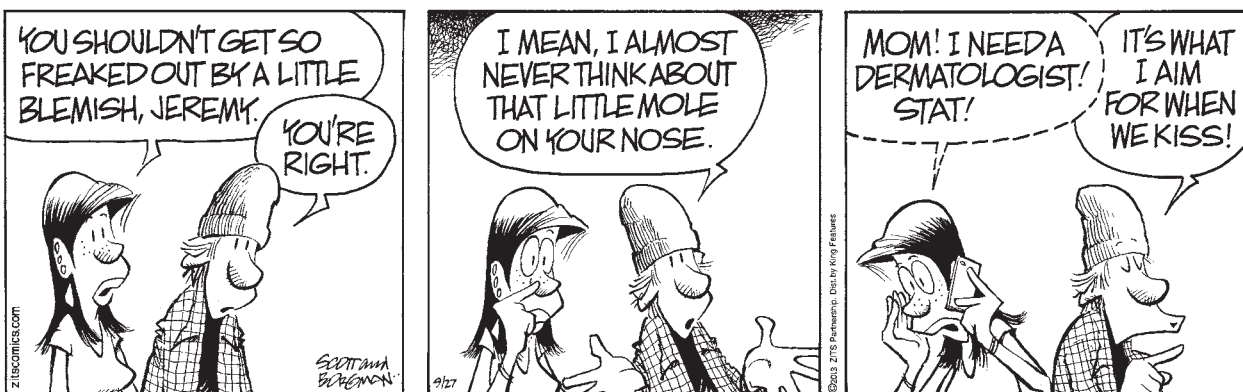
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

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| | 8 | | | | | | | |
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| | 1 | 8 | | 9 | | 2 | 4 | |
| | 3 | | | | 7 | | | 1 |
| | | | | 6 | | 5 | | 9 |
| | | | | | | | 1 | |
| 4 | | | 9 | | | | | 6 |

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

9/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

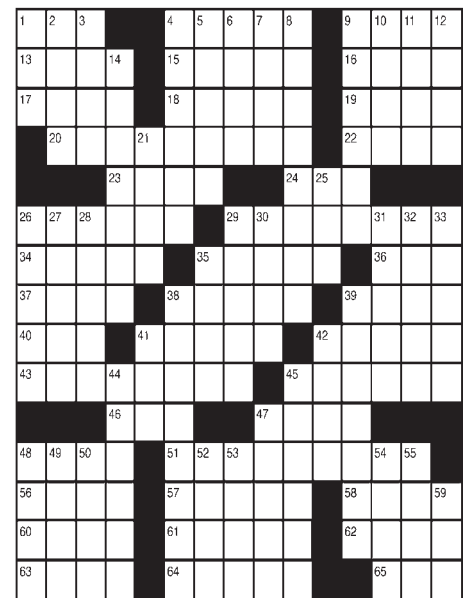
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| 3 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 6 |
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| 2 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 5 |
| 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 2 |
| 9 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 1 |
| 1 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 3 |
| 4 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 7 |

ACROSS

- Prius or Taurus
- Frequently
- Give the cold shoulder to
- Leave out
- Will to achieve
- Remain optimistic
- North __; Santa's home
- Valleys
- __ canal; dental procedure
- Emotion
- Travelers' lodges
- Fancy cracker topper
- Recline
- Sermon
- Chunky, as in a person's build
- On one's own
- Insincere
- Spoil
- Auction offers
- Fork time
- In a __; furious
- "__ Got You Under My Skin"
- Came up
- Supermarket walkway
- Put on the air
- Shoves
- Topaz or ruby
- Slender; thin
- Mediocre
- Pay __ to; heed
- Bangkok native
- Jeer at
- Wicked
- Lubricates
- Kovacs or Pyle
- City in Nevada
- Verse writer
- Use up
- Tennis court divider

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

9/27/13



Thursday's Puzzle Solved

| | | |
|----------|----------|-------|
| OWNER | BOAR | OATH |
| WHERE | ABLE | PLEA |
| LEANS | TEAM | PEAR |
| STRETCHY | AHORSE | |
| SALE | BRONTES | |
| CONTRA | PEKOE | |
| ADO | TIGER | KNACK |
| LOSS | MIRTH | TILE |
| FREED | RISER | DUE |
| DRILL | LESSEN | |
| OPTIONS | BEAU | |
| TRAMPS | HANDBILL | |
| HOLE | EPIC | EDDIE |
| EVEN | CORK | RULES |
| REST | TIES | SEEDS |

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9/27/13

- Pennsylvania or Fifth: abbr.
- Dad's sister
- Boaster
- Breathed heavily
- Russian leader Vladimir __
- Go no farther
- Cincinnati, __
- Store event
- Waterproof covering
- Melody
- Large kitchen appliance
- Four and five
- Building site

DOWN

- Police officer
- Actor John __
- Make angry
- Peculiar thing
- Picture border

Longoria's a one-team guy, but what about Cano?



New York Yankees second baseman Robinson Cano runs after a hit during an MLB game against the Boston Red Sox at Yankee Stadium in New York, Sept. 5, 2013. Evan Longoria has pledged his allegiance to the Tampa Bay Rays, but the Yankees must wonder what Cano wants most from his next contract.

(Ben Solomon/The New York Times)

HARVEY ARATON

© 2013 New York Times

There was a time Evan Longoria would have been the ideal young veteran star to come save the tumbling New York Yankees. For much of the last four decades, spanning the Steinbrenner era, someone like Longoria - charismatic, skilled and strong - would have filled the gap likely to be left at third base next season by the diminished Alex Rodriguez.

Longoria grew up in California, admiring Derek Jeter, who was a fixture in his postseason television viewing. A shortstop in his college playing days, Longoria wanted to be much like Jeter, just not necessarily in Yankees pinstripes.

"I realized from a business standpoint that baseball has changed in the past 20, 30 years, and you see less and less guys that stay with the same team for a long time," Longoria said. "But I always say that a guy like Derek had an impact

on my fandom, the way I grew up watching baseball and what I really respected. It was one of the core values I wanted to live up to, follow through on. Rather than plot an escape from a team that plays in a charmless domed stadium and ranks last in major league attendance, Longoria in November signed an upgraded contract that could be worth as much as \$144.6 million and keep him with the Tampa Bay Rays for another decade, or into his late 30s.

Longoria, 27, pledged allegiance to a fan base that collectively would yawn if the Rays picked up and left. He called it "a no-brainer to stay in the same organization that I was given an opportunity to play at the major league level with." He said this in the Rays' clubhouse Wednesday night at Yankee Stadium before going out to homer twice - his 30th and 31st of the season - in an 8-3 victory as the Yankees were

eliminated from playoff contention. That made Thursday night's series finale quite the occasion for the Yankees, their first home game in 20 years in which they had no mathematical chance of qualifying for the postseason. The retiring Mariano Rivera's first Stadium experience with irrelevance was also his last game there.

So too, possibly, for Robinson Cano.

This is what it has come to for the Yankees as they hurtle toward the unknown at the end of a regular season that will feature low-budget clubs from St. Petersburg, Oakland and Pittsburgh playing on into October. While Longoria could say he had committed to an organization that "is winning and is going to continue to give me a chance to play in the postseason and win a World Series," Cano, the Yankees' best player, was offering no assurances of re-signing with them as a free agent. □



Marriott Aruba Surf Club

GOLD Season

Oceanside \$10k Oceanview \$9500
Oceanfront \$15,000
3 BEDRM OV \$15,000

Platinum Season

Oceanview \$18k Oceanside \$19k
Oceanfront \$29k 3 BEDRM \$29k
Plat Plus Holiday 51 OV -\$42k
Plat Plus NY 52 OV- \$49k

Marriott Aruba Ocean Club

Platinum 2B Oceanview \$19k
Oceanfront PLAT \$29k
Platinum 1B OV \$12,500
Gold season 2B OV \$10,000
Oceanfront 2B \$17,000
1B Oceanfront \$9,500

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| SAVANETA | 584-7000 |
| SAN NICOLAS | 584-5000 |
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Sep. 30
Monarch

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Report ponders: How sensitive is climate to CO2?

KARL RITTER

Associated Press

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Scientists are more confident than ever that pumping carbon dioxide into the air by burning fossil fuels is warming the planet. The question is, by how much? It's something that officials and scientists meeting in Stockholm will try to pin down as precisely possible Friday in a seminal report on global warming.

Future global warming levels depend on two major factors. One is how much more carbon dioxide (CO2) and other greenhouse gases are pumped into the air and how quickly.

The other is the rate at which those gases cause warming, sort of like a revving car engine. With that rate, called "climate sensitivity," scientists are trying to figure out how much warming would happen with different levels of carbon pollution. The higher the climate sensitivity or rate, the higher the warming per ton of greenhouse gas emitted.

The values adopted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change are



In this Dec. 16, 2009 file photo, steam and smoke rises from a coal power station in Gelsenkirchen, Germany.

important because they could affect how hard governments try to rein in CO2 emissions — which are still going up largely due to the rapid expansion of China and other emerging economies.

A lower value may reduce the world's sense of urgency in making a costly en-

ergy transformation from oil, coal and gas to renewable sources like solar or wind power — or in halting the destruction of the Earth's forests, which capture CO2.

"It's a key part of the climate problem," said Chris Field, a Carnegie Institution scientist who is a leader

in the IPCC but wasn't involved in the report due Friday.

The greenhouse effect, which explains how CO2 and other greenhouse gases trap heat in the atmosphere, was discovered in the 19th century but scientists are still struggling to quantify it.

The IPCC is expected to say Friday that it's 95 percent certain that more than half the surface warming of the Earth that has been observed since 1951 is due to the CO2 emissions resulting from human activities.

Climate sensitivity is a measure of how much temperatures would go up if the concentration of CO2 doubled in the atmosphere. In its third assessment, the IPCC estimated this as a likely range of 1.5-4.5 degrees Celsius (2.7-8.1 Fahrenheit). The fourth report, in 2007, raised the lower end of that range to 2 C (3.6 F), and gave a best estimate of 3 C (5.4 F). Now, new research has shown that the upward move may have been too hasty, and there's a discussion in Stockholm over whether to bring the lower end back down to 1.5 C (2.7 F). It may seem like a minor detail, but it makes a difference to governments, which want to know how much CO2 emissions need to be cut to prevent temperatures from increasing more than 2 C (3.6 F) compared to before humans started burning fossil fuels. □



In this photo taken from a remote camera at the Lazovsky State Nature Reserve in the Primorye region of Russia's Far East on Dec. 8, 2011, a golden eagle attacks a deer.

Associated Press

Cameras capture eagle killing deer in Russia

RAPHAEL SATTER

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The eagle, red-handed.

Remote cameras intended to monitor Siberian tigers in Russia instead caught a golden eagle's fatal attack on a deer, snapping three photos as the massive bird dug its talons into the distressed animal's back.

London's Zoological Society, which distributed the pictures to journalists, said the sequence showed a rare but not unheard of attack by a golden eagle. The society's Linda Kerley said she first realized something was up when she approached the wildlife-monitoring device — also

called a camera trap — and found a mangled deer carcass nearby.

"Something felt wrong about it," she said in a statement accompanying the photographs. "There were no large carnivore tracks in the snow, and it looked like the deer had been running and then just stopped and died."

"It was only after we got back to camp that I checked the images from the camera and pieced everything together," she said. "I couldn't believe what I was seeing."

Golden eagles are large birds. Their wingspan tops more than 2 meters (6 ½ feet) and, while they typi-

cally eat small birds, mammals, or snakes, they've been known to target larger animals as well.

It's rare for a camera to catch such an attack in progress, and the photos have been an online sensation.

The zoological society said the photos were shot in the Lazovsky State Nature Reserve in the Primorye region of Russia's Far East on Dec. 8, 2011. The pictures were released only after the publication of a scholarly article by Kerley and co-author Jonathan Slaght of the Wildlife Conservation Society in the Ohio-based Journal of Raptor Research earlier this month. □



In this April 27, 2013 file photo, actor Robert De Niro attends "The King of Comedy" screening in New York.

Associated Press

De Niro takes over James Gandolfini miniseries role

LOS ANGELES (AP) — HBO says Robert De Niro will step into a project that was thrown into question by the death of James Gandolfini. HBO said Wednesday that De Niro is taking on the role of a New York City attorney handling a murder case in the miniseries "Criminal Justice."

Gandolfini had played

the attorney in the pilot episode. The star of "The Sopranos" died in June at age 51 after suffering a heart attack.

"Criminal Justice" was one of Gandolfini's last projects. Another is the film "Enough Said," which is now in theaters. An air date for "Criminal Justice" hasn't been announced. □

'Big Bang Theory' actress Kaley Cuoco is engaged



From left, Ryan Sweeting and Kaley Cuoco arrive at the 2013 Entertainment Weekly Pre-E Emmy Party, presented by L'Oreal Paris and bebe at Fig & Olive on Friday, Sept. 20, 2013, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — "The Big Bang Theory" actress Kaley Cuoco is off the market.

After a quick courtship, Cuoco is engaged to tennis pro Ryan Sweeting, her rep confirms.

The 27-year-old actress and 26-year-old Sweeting began dating about three months ago.

The engagement comes a few days after Cuoco took Sweeting as her date to the Emmy Awards. At a pre-Emmy event, Cuoco called Sweeting the "greatest date ever" on a photo posted to her official Twitter and Instagram accounts.

News of the proposal was first reported by Us Weekly. It will be the first marriage for both.

"The Big Bang Theory" returns for its seventh season on Thursday. □

Amber Tamblyn shakes up season 11 of CBS' 'Men'

ALICIA RANCILIO
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Amber Tamblyn plays Charlie Harper's previously unknown daughter, Jenny, on the 11th season of CBS' "Two and a Half Men," premiering Thursday night.

Jenny and her father (who was played by Charlie Sheen) have something in common: a love for women. She's a hard-partying bisexual.

Tamblyn, whose TV credits include the dramas "General Hospital," "Joan of Arcadia" and "House M.D.," said she wasn't sure if she was interested in joining "Two and a Half Men."

She said her agent told her, "Well, hang on. It's a genius role. ... She's very into alcohol and women." Tamblyn, who has yet to see an episode of the show, said she's amazed by its bawdy, sexual humor.

"It is very fun to play," the 30-year-old actress said of her character. "I am shocked at what they get away with on the show. It's kind of incredible. Just the



This Sept. 18, 2013 photo shows actress Amber Tamblyn in New York.

Associated Press

jokes and the language and the euphemisms for genitalia. There's a lot of that happening. I think I had more sex in the first episode than I've ever had in the 20 years in my career on any film or television. So it's pretty awesome."

She said taping a show before a live studio audience is harder than doing theater "because the writers come in and they change the jokes and then you have to do it again with all new jokes.

That really requires a certain type of muscle memory, and I think talent.

I bow down to Jon Cryer and Ashton Kutcher and what they do.

Watching them is such a pleasure."

Angus T. Jones, who plays Cryer's son, Jake, made headlines last year for saying the show conflicted with his religious views. He's now on recurring status on the series.

Kutcher replaced Sheen on the show. □

'Idol' winner Ruben Studdard now 'Biggest Loser'



This image released by NBC shows, from left, David Brown, Ruben Studdard, and Hap Holmstead on "The Biggest Loser," in Calabasas, Calif.

Associated Press

MARGIE SZAROLETA
Associated Press

Ruben Studdard didn't even get one last pig-out session before making his

way to "The Biggest Loser" ranch. "You know, the funny thing is, I was actually working the night before, so I didn't get an opportu-

nity to have a pig-out session, no," Studdard said in a phone call. "I actually flew from a concert to the ranch. ... I'm sure I probably would have had a piece of cake or something before I went up to the ranch for months and months." The 35-year-old singer became famous winning another reality show — "American Idol" — but had seen his weight climb in the years since. He is the 15th season's heaviest contestant at 462 pounds. "The Biggest Loser" returns Oct. 8 at 8 p.m. on NBC.

The Grammy-nominated artist said after the show, he'll record his sixth album, but he will also make sure to "give every day of my life some Ruben time." □

NYC retrospective reassesses LOVE artist's work

ULA ILNYTZKY

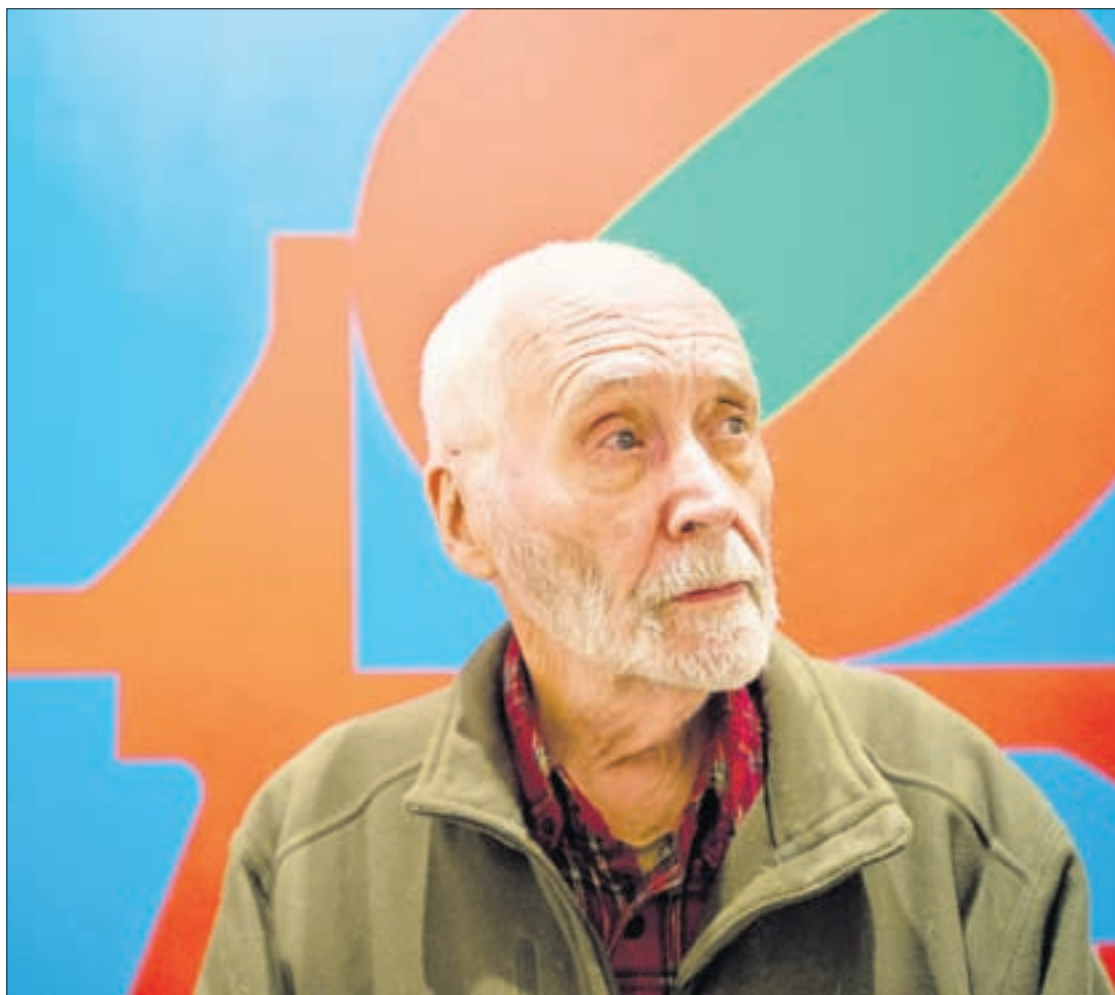
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Artist Robert Indiana says love hurt him.

Love, as in his world-famous LOVE image — stacked letters with a tilted O — that became a symbol of the “make love, not war” 1960s counterculture revolution. That one image eclipsed all his other work. But now the artist's first major retrospective, titled “Robert Indiana: Beyond LOVE”, at the Whitney Museum of American Art that opened Thursday could change that.

“It's a dream come true, a little late,” Indiana, who turned 85 this month, said in an interview at the museum this week surrounded by 95 works he created over the past five decades. The image both “blessed and cursed” him, said Barbara Haskell, the exhibition's curator. It's so famous and so ubiquitous — reproduced on everything from coffee cups to T-shirts without Indiana's permission — that “it has obscured the depth and breadth of everything else he did.”

His paintings and sculptures are filled with images of highway signs, roulette



In this Sept. 24, 2013 photo, artist Robert Indiana, known world over for his LOVE image, is interviewed in front of that painting at New York's Whitney Museum of American Art.

Associated Press

wheels, circles, stars within circles, numbers and simple words — Eat, Die, Hug. “The subtext of what he does is very profound. He really touches on issues of survival, forgiveness love and racial injustice,” Haskell said.

Indiana, who sat in a wheelchair but mostly uses a cane, said a favorite piece in the show is his monumental diptych EAT/DIE, an homage to his mother whose dying words to him were “Have you had enough to eat?” he

said.

Born Robert Clark in 1928, Indiana changed his name in 1958 in honor of his home state. He was closely as-

said.

Among his earliest works are anthropomorphic figures made from wood salvaged from warehouses that were being torn down in his lower Manhattan neighborhood in the early 1960s.

His themes are American. Some consist of stenciled lettering that reference words or phrases from classic American literature. Others address racism as in his powerful Confederacy Series — four paintings in which he uses stars to identify cities where violence occurred during the civil rights movement.

But there's LOVE, too.

There are nine monumental LOVE sculptures, all original, in different colors and some slightly different in size. They are in New York, Philadelphia, Indianapolis, Bentonville, Arkansas, Scottsdale, Arizona, New Orleans, Singapore, Tokyo and Taipei, Taiwan.

In the exhibition, there's a LOVE painting in the form of a cross and a small aluminum model that served as a template for all his other LOVE pieces. And

Rare Rolling Stones pics to be shown at rock Hall

NEW YORK (AP) — Rare photos of the young Rolling Stones, taken by their tour manager during their first years in the United States, will be unveiled during the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame's celebration of the group next month.

Bob Bonis was the group's tour manager from 1964 to 1966. The photos show a wide range of their activities, from performances onstage to hanging out. One photo shows Keith Richards cutting Charlie Watts' hair.

The photos will be part of a weeklong tribute for the Music Masters Series, to be held Oct. 21 to Oct. 26. Some of the musicians who



This Nov. 11, 1965 photo supplied by the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum shows, from left, Brian Jones, Charlie Watts and Mick Jagger of The Rolling Stones on the NBC teen music show “Hullabaloo,” in New York.

Associated Press

worked with the group will attend a concert, and other events will be held during the week.

The series has also honored Woody Guthrie, Aretha Franklin, Janis Joplin and Chuck Berry. □



In this Sept. 24, 2013 photo, the works of artist Robert Indiana, known world over for his LOVE image, are on display at New York's Whitney Museum of American Art.

Associated Press

sociated with the leading pop artists of the 1960s and first received acclaim when Alfred Barr, director of the Museum of Modern Art, purchased his “American Dream I” in 1961. But Haskell said Indiana's work is more conceptually layered than that of a Roy Lichtenstein comic book image or an Andy Warhol Marilyn Monroe silkscreen. “There are myriad interpretations you can make on any one of his works.” she

there's Electric Love, a monumental sculpture with tiny electric lights that move up and down until the entire piece glows — a psychedelic throwback to the days where it all started.

“It's quite staggering,” Indiana said of the exhibition, which will travel to the McNay Art Museum in San Antonio, Texas, on Feb. 5. “I can't believe I did all this work. I should be exhausted, and I am exhausted.” □

No Brief Encounter



MAUREEN DOWD
© 2013 New York Times

The man formerly hailed as a messiah was having a bad day. The Iranians snubbed him. The Brazilians upbraided him. Ted Cruz fauxlibustered him. And you just know that, behind the scenes, the Russians were messing with him.

At the end of a long, hard day at the United Nations, he escaped into the sweaty and freighted embrace of the Clintons, who had to explain and defend the president's own health care plan for him at their global initiative conference/Hillary 2016 pep rally. The choreography of diplomacy danced around the tantalizing possibility of a historic handshake that could end three decades of poison. (Even though the last climactic clasp, between Yitzhak Rabin and Yasir Arafat, disappointingly proved that sometimes a handshake is just a handshake.)

With the welcome exit of the provincial Iranian fruitbat, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, could the country W. declared part of the "axis of evil" reach out to the country smeared as the "Great Satan" by Ayatollah Khomeini? Obama administration officials at the U.N. on Tuesday explained to reporters that there would not be a bilateral between President Barack Obama and President Hassan Rouhani of Iran, or any sort of "formal meeting."

"We're not prepared for heads of state to negotiate or presidents to negotiate on the nuclear issue," an official said, speaking on background. An "encounter" would be permissible. Not a long one, but an "informal, brief encounter."

"So," a reporter asked, "like a handshake?" "Yes, that type of thing," the official replied. "Exactly. On the margins here."

Except that, after the White House spent a week suggesting that there could be a press-the-flesh moment, Rouhani snubbed Obama. And not on the margins. Maybe the tweet-happy Iranian president was too busy retweeting Christiane Amanpour to have time to pretend to bump into the American president in a U.N. hallway. "Ultimately it became clear that that was too complicated for them at this time," the Obama official said just before 3 p.m., trying to put a good face on the scuttled face-to-face, adding that "the Iranians, No. 1, have an internal dynamic that they have to manage" and they "were not ready to have an encounter at the

presidential level."

Even a brief encounter wasn't brief enough.

"The assumption that a meeting per se could be decisive or help solve problems is absolutely wrong," said the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Marzieh Afkham. "We think that we should wait until a proper time for such a meeting comes. Our assessment is that the proper time hasn't yet come."

Poor President Obama, trying to figure out if the Russians and Iranians are offering trick or treat to America on WMD, as he lurches about with a foreign policy played out extemporaneously and ambivalently in "Obama's brain and Ben Rhodes' mouth," as The New Republic's Leon Wieseltier puts it. (An internal Israeli government document, The Washington Post reported, dismissed Rouhani's charm offensive as "smile but enrich.")

And poor Hillary Clinton, having to watch as the diplomatic breakthroughs, albeit haphazard and possibly illusory, happen on John Kerry's watch, making her tenure look even more like that of a globe-trotting good-will ambassador. The president told the U.N. that future diplomatic efforts would focus on Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons and the Arab-Israeli conflict. Hillary largely steered clear of that conflict, knowing the domestic risks for the restoration of Clinton Inc.

The Obama snub is a replay of then-President Clinton's dashed attempt at a brief encounter in 2000 at the opening of the General Assembly with the Iranian President Mohammad Khatami, who also tried to warm up relations with the West but got hampered by hard-liners at home. As The Times' Mark Landler wrote, Clinton aides did everything they could to arrange a "coincidental" brief encounter - including asking that Clinton's speech be just before Khatami's and that Clinton be seated within chair-bumping range of Khatami at the secretary general's lunch.

Prince Turki al-Faisal, the former Saudi Arabian ambassador to the U.S., told an audience at the Core Club in Midtown Sunday evening that Obama raised expectations in the Arab world with his 2009 Cairo speech that were never met. But the president, stymied on Syria and dealing with an American public that never wants to hear the words "Sunni" or "Shiite" again, had a straight-up message for the Arab world. "The United States is chastised for meddling in the region, accused of having a hand in all manner of conspiracy," he said in his speech, "at the same time, the United States is blamed for failing to do enough to solve the region's problems and for showing indifference toward suffering Muslim populations."

He said that America's ill-suited forays into occupying Muslim countries are over: "Iraq shows us that democracy cannot simply be imposed by force."

A handshake can't be imposed on someone who is not quite ready to come to grips. □



Shrugging Off The Shooting



JOE NOCERA
© 2013 New York Times

Last Tuesday, the day after Aaron Alexis killed 12 people at the Washington Navy Yard, Rick Warren and his wife, Kay, gave a lengthy interview to Piers Morgan on CNN.

Warren is perhaps the best-known clergyman in the country, the founder of the Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif., and the author of the best-selling book, "The Purpose Driven Life." Five months earlier, his son Matthew, who suffered from debilitating mental illness, had used a gun to commit suicide.

Matthew had tried for years to get ahold of a gun, his mother told Morgan, but he had never been able to obtain one legally. That's because California has laws preventing people with serious mental illness from buying a gun. "We're grateful that the laws kept Matthew from getting the gun for as long as they did," said Rick Warren. But, after years of trying, Matthew finally found someone on the Internet who was willing to sell him a gun illegally. He filed down the serial number so that the gun couldn't be traced, and a month after taking possession of it, he killed himself.

Watching the interview, I couldn't help but reflect on Alexis, who also had the kind of history - including an episode of

hearing voices just five weeks earlier - that should have kept him from getting a gun. In Virginia, however, he was able to legally purchase a Remington shotgun. Remington is part of the Freedom Group, a company owned by the private equity firm Cerberus Capital. Adam Lanza used a gun from the same company in the elementary school massacre in Newtown, Conn.

I was about to say that, once again, the intersection of mental illness and gun policy is top of mind. But that's not really true, is it?

What has been most stupefying about the reaction to the Navy Yard rampage is how muted it has been. After the horror of Newtown, people were galvanized. This time, the news seemed to be greeted with a resigned shrug. "Is this the new normal?" David Gregory asked Wayne LaPierre of the National Rifle Association on Sunday on "Meet the Press" on NBC. It's sure starting to feel that way.

Mass shootings "ought to obsess us," said President Barack Obama when he spoke on Sunday to the grieving Navy Yard community. "It ought to lead to some sort of transformation." But it never does.

We know that most mass shooters have this one thing in common: They have usually shown signs of mental illness in the past. And while keeping guns out of their hands won't put an end to gun violence, it might at least mitigate against these ritual slaughters of innocent people.

It wouldn't even be that hard to accomplish. "You have to create a net that will weed out people who are likely to commit acts of gun violence," says Josh Horwitz, the executive director of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence.

It would require universal background checks, for sure, with criteria built around past acts of violence, commitments to

mental health facilities, and addiction to drugs and alcohol, among other things. California, in fact, has such criteria, which is why Matthew Warren had such difficulty getting a gun. (You would also have to crack down on illegal gun sales.)

But it does require a political will that the country simply doesn't have. In recent months, it's been the hard-line gun owners who've been galvanized in defeating an effort to institute national background checks in April, openly taking guns into Starbucks - forcing Howard Schultz, the chairman and chief executive, to issue a plea that they stop - and, most recently, successfully recalling two Colorado state legislators who had supported tougher gun laws. After Newtown, Cerberus announced it would sell Freedom Group. Nine months later, there has been no sale, and one wonders whether there ever will be. (A Cerberus spokesman said a sale was still the plan.)

When he spoke on Sunday, the president seemed to almost seethe with frustration. But he also noted that the politics were "difficult." And though he said that we should never view mass shootings as "the new normal," he also made it clear that he won't lead the charge. There's no political upside in trying to keep guns out of the wrong hands.

Earlier on Sunday, Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., who had courageously led the effort for universal background checks back in April, was asked on "Face the Nation" on CBS if he were willing to give it another try.

"I'm not going to go out there and just beat the drum for the sake of beating the drum," he replied.

Meanwhile, we nervously await the next mass shooting, knowing with a painful certainty that it will come. And that it could likely have been prevented, if only we had the will. □

DOG ZIGGITY: NEW JERSEY'S OWN!

ROBERT SIETSEMA

© 2013 New York Times

The hot dog has always been tightly tethered to New York City in the public imagination. As a result, few Americans (not to mention New Yorkers) know that just across the Hudson River, on the hills and shores of New Jersey, this small beast ranges freely, with a welter of variations and a certain abandon.

While New Yorkers opt for thin, natural-skin beef franks cooked on the griddle and sparsely decorated with a condiment or two, New Jerseyans prefer thicker dogs with artificial skins in beef-pork combinations. For them the Coney Island frank is austere; in the rolling countryside between the Hudson and Delaware Rivers, the locals regularly demand theirs deep-fried and so heavily garnished that you can no longer see the wiener, sometimes with strange toppings that may shock their big-city neighbors.

In that spirit of freedom, I decided that a road trip was in order: a marathon run, before the backyard-and-ballpark season ends, to many of New Jersey's most respected hot-dog joints, to see how many varieties I could find.

The trip by rental car covered 270 miles, 12 hours and several hot-dog emporiums, one of which turned out to have closed for renovations, and another that stopped serving franks last spring. One particularly troubled leg of the trip, between Elizabeth and West Orange (a distance of just 10 miles) required 24 turns, according to GPS, part of it through downtown Newark. New Jersey is not easy driving territory.

I began my odyssey by arriving sharply at 9 a.m. at the state's most legendary hot-dog parlor, the original home of the "ripper." Founded in 1928 by Royal Rutt and his wife, Anna, on the south side of Clifton, only a 20-minute drive from Manhattan, Rutt's Hut is a

huge brown pile that sits in a grove of trees proximate to two major highways but visible from neither. Let's just say the place is hard to find.

It consists of a darkened barroom and a 1950s-style fast-food counter where you eat standing up. Like many of the places I was to visit, Rutt's Hut deep-fries its hefty beef-pork links until a rip appears in the side; hence, the nickname.

Despite the early hour, I stepped up and ordered one well done. It was soon handed across the counter: a bulbous, artificial-skin dog of the type often called a "ballpark frank," sporting a giant gash that might alarm an emergency-room physician. Among several ways the ripper may be dressed, foremost is Rutt's signature relish, said to have been invented by the founder's mother back in Germany: a canary-yellow condiment that tastes as if it contains mustard, onions and sweet-pickle relish. While it seemed a little strange eating a hot dog for breakfast, the fellow behind me polished off four in under five minutes.

The seaside version of the Jersey frank is humongous - a quarter-pound, beef-pork foot-long that sizzles on a flat griddle till the natural skin turns crisp and partly blackens. These opulent dogs are served at Max's in several different ways: girt with bacon, split down the middle with a slice of American cheese tucked inside, or with a chili that tastes somewhat more like real chili than the Texas wiener variety.

But Max's is not alone in this endeavor. A few blocks south, in a building strikingly shaped like its Dutch namesake, the WindMill offers foot-longs with a roster of toppings you spoon on yourself, including a New York-style heated sauerkraut that the counterman yanks from the griddle. The WindMill's greatest competitive advantage is an outdoor upper deck, where you can eat with



A deep-fried ballpark frank with mustard, chopped raw onions and dill-pickle spear at Hot Dog Johnny's in Buttzville, N.J.
(Tony Cenicola/The New York Times)

a view of the ocean. As I drove out of town feeling stuffed and slightly ill, I passed another Garden State icon: Gov. Chris Christie, making a pitch for Jersey Shore tourism (two weeks before the big fire in Seaside Heights).

While the hot dogs in Long Branch were astonishing in size, nothing prepared me for what I encountered near Newark. Little known to outsiders, the Jersey Italian hot dog is a small-circumference sausage served on hollowed-out "pizza-bread," a round loaf of the kind often found

in Sicily. The most famous rendition is at Jimmy Buff's in West Orange, not far from Thomas Edison's laboratory. Here at Jimmy Buff's the hot dogs are fried in a lake of cooking oil along with the onions, peppers and rounds of potato that are stuffed into the bread along with the frank or franks, making a gut bomb of indescribable proportions. It was way past supertime as I motored dizzily toward the Holland Tunnel, with one last stop to make. In Jersey City, next to an ornate and ancient movie theater, lurks the narrow

yellow Boulevard Drinks. In addition to a number of supposed tonic beverages, à la Gray's Papaya, Boulevard Drinks offers a single viand, a slender hot dog warmed on a griddle with your choice of sauerkraut, cheese sauce, red stewed onions, chopped raw onions and a Texas-wiener-style meat sauce with finely minced onions mixed in.

This dog is clearly a New York-New Jersey hybrid. As such it doesn't quite belong in this roundup, but it was darned good nonetheless. □



A fried hot dog with onions, peppers and potatoes stuffed into pizza bread at Jimmy Buff's in West Orange, N.J.
(Tony Cenicola/The New York Times)